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CONTADORA FOREIGN MINISTERS TO MEET 19, 20 JULY

PA100241 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 0027 GMT 10 Jul 85

[Text] Panama City, 9 Jul (DPA) -- The foreign ministers of the four countries of the Contadora Group will meet on 19 July on the island of the same name, the Panamanian Foreign Ministry reported today.

The meeting is at the invitation of Panamanian Foreign Minister Jorge Abadia Arias and might last until 20 July, it was said.

The meeting had been announced previously for 17 and 18 July, but, for reasons not specified, it was postponed until the 19th.

The meeting will be attended by Bernardo Sepulveda (Mexico), Augusto Ramirez (Colombia), Simon Alberto Consalvi (Venezuela), and Jorge Abadia Arias (Panama).

The main topic of the meeting will be strengthening the peacekeeping efforts in Central America, after the last meeting of deputy foreign ministers held in Panama City failed due to differences with the Nicaraguan delegation.

NICARAGUAN VICE PRESIDENT CONTINUES VISIT

Comments on Relations With U.S.

PY091947 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1430 GMT 8 Jul 85

[Text] Buenos Aires, 8 Jul (TELAM) -- Nicaraguan Vice President Sergio Ramirez Mercado, who is visiting Argentina, today said that the objective of the hunger strike by Nicaraguan Foreign Minister Miguel D'Escoto is to dramatize the war and aggression Nicaragua is experiencing and to appeal for world peace. Speaking on the Radio Belgrano program "Without Anesthesia," Ramirez Mercado noted that the Nicaraguan president had decided to leave it up to the foreign minister whether or not to hold a fast in his capacity as a priest but it should not affect his responsibilities as foreign minister.

Ramirez added that the government respects this decision, but that it is not a government action. He noted that Father D'Escoto and a group of priests and laymen from the Monsignor Lezcano Church are holding the fast.

Regarding U.S.-Nicaraguan relations, Ramirez Mercado said: We can say that U.S.-Nicaraguan relations have been very tense and have (?seriously) deteriorated since the U.S. Government declared a trade embargo against Nicaragua and since the Reagan administration pressured Congress to approve funds to finance the counterrevolution and authorized the sending of troops to Nicaragua.

He added: But despite this deterioration in bilateral relations, we are insisting on the urgency of seeking paths to peace and dialogue, and we are requesting that the U.S. Government return to the negotiating table in Manzanillo, Mexico. These talks were suspended by the United States in January 1985.

Regarding his meeting with President Alfonsin, the high-ranking Nicaraguan official said: We shall discuss our views on the Central American issue, tensions that Nicaragua is experiencing in view of the increasing aggression we are being subjected to, and the role that Argentina may play in achieving a peaceful solution to the Central American conflict by supporting the Contadora Group and the peace negotiations. He also noted the more active role the Contadora Group may play in view of the prestige that Argentina and President Raul Alfonsin enjoy in Latin America.

He added: We believe that since the inauguration of President Alfonsin there has been an increasing interest on the part of Argentina in the Central American problem and in seeking solutions to the crisis that Nicaragua is experiencing. He noted: We believe this desire has been expressed at Latin American forums during those decision-making processes that seek peaceful solutions.

Ramirez Mercado said the morale of the Nicaraguan people is very high and the people are aware that we are living in difficult times. He added that the government is maintaining the unity of the nation and is exposing the situation as it is. The people know that they have to make sacrifices [words indistinct] whether we achieve a peaceful solution or have to confront the unfortunate situation of foreign aggression, although we prefer the first alternative. We are not a militaristic nation. We are a small and weak nation and we want to achieve peace as soon as possible.

Holds Press Conference

PY092007 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 2017 GMT 8 Jul 85

[Text] Buenos Aires, 8 Jul (TELAM) -- Nicaraguan Vice President Sergio Ramirez today said that Latin America must adopt a united stance in response to U.S. intervention, as in the case of the Malvinas. He also expressed interest in resuming the dialogue with the United States without dismissing Argentina's mediation, which he said he would welcome.

At noon today Sergio Ramirez held a press conference in a hotel in downtown Buenos Aires, where he pointed out the need to discuss mechanisms to solve the Central American conflict through the Contadora Group.

Ramirez added that the purpose of his tour is to expose Latin American countries to peaceful solutions for the Central American region, for which the Contadora Group's negotiations must be expedited. Ramirez added that we would attend the Contadora Group's meetings without previously setting an agenda or establishing conditions, such as a halt to U.S. financing of counterrevolutionary groups in Nicaragua. He also added that the Latin American countries should supply his country's needs because of the U.S. trade embargo.

Ramirez, who was accompanied by Nicaraguan Ambassador to Argentina Ricardo Zambrana Diaz, said Nicaragua does not have an offensive army, that it has a defensive army, an infantry army, which does not represent a threat to the other countries. The Nicaraguan vice president said Nicaragua does not have the aircraft, an air force, or the logistical capacity to attack other Central American countries, although it has Soviet arms with which to defend itself, as the Peruvian Army has. He added that Nicaragua receives oil from the Soviet Union, as it does from Mexico.

Ramirez went on to say that the Sandinist junta has no reason or desire to attack another country and that the United States lacks the political and moral capacity to decide what is democratic and what is not, especially within Nicaraguan borders.

In answering a question, Ramirez said it is not a matter of Nicaragua's occupying Honduras but rather a matter of the U.S. Government's inciting a Central American country to declare that it has been attacked and thus provoking an incident, as in the case of the Gulf of Tonkin incident, which was the excuse to send troops to Vietnam. Ramirez said that if there have been border conflicts, they were caused by the concentration of counterrevolutionary forces on the Nicaraguan border and on the other side of the border. He said that if there is a border war, it has two causes: the counterrevolutionary forces' inability to occupy and fight their way farther into Nicaragua, and the counterrevolutionaries' rearguard support in neighboring countries, where they have established their bases with the direct support of the CIA. Ramirez said that in Costa Rica, we are awaiting the establishment of a neutral area to prevent a worsening of this type of incident, which might serve as an excuse for a direct attack.

Regarding U.S. Senator Lugar's proposal to negotiate with the rebels, Ramirez said that the U.S. Senate is determined to impart legitimacy as well as political weight, which the counterrevolutionary forces do not have, because these forces are part of an aggressive mechanism. Ramirez then said the best way to discuss matters of concern with the United States is to sit down and talk around the Manzanillo -- headquarters of the Contadora Group's meetings -- table without setting any conditions.

In the next few hours the Nicaraguan official will meet with President Raul Alfonsin. At 1800 today he is scheduled to meet with legislators and members of the Chamber of Deputies and Senate.

Discusses Contadora With Alfonsin

PY090333 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 0141 GMT 9 Jul 85

[Excerpt] Buenos Aires, 8 Jul (NA) -- President Raul Alfonsin today discussed the situation of Nicaragua and Argentina's possible membership in the group that will oversee the Contadora Group's peace agreements, along with Spain, Canada, and France. The chief executive reviewed the sensitive situation in that part of the world in the course of a meeting which he held this afternoon with Nicaraguan Vice President Sergio Ramirez Mercado at the Olivos residence.

Although no official information has been released, it was leaked that during the meeting Alfonsin and Ramirez discussed the Central American status quo and especially the Nicaraguan issue. Alfonsin reportedly reiterated his government's total support for the efforts of the Contadora Group as being the most appropriate means for preserving peace in the region. Ranirez in turn stated his government's willingness to accept the establishment of a group that would oversee the peace agreements of the Contadora Group. Alfonsin reportedly told Ramirez that he was favorably disposed toward Argentina's participation in this group which will also be made up of Spain, Canada and France.

Meets With Martinez

PY091525 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0830 GMT 9 Jul 85

[By Jose Segual]

[Text] Buenos Aires, 8 Jul (EFE) -- Vice President Victor Martinez has announced that the Argentine Government will promote a meeting of Latin American and U.S. congressmen to consider giving support to the Contadora Group. This announcement was made at the end of a meeting Vice President Martinez held with his Nicaraguan counterpart, Sergio Ramirez, who is visiting this capital seeking support for his country's cause.

At the end of a press conference, Martinez told journalists that he had offered Ramirez the cooperation of Argentine congressmen and jurists in the writing of the future constitution of Nicaragua. Martinez said that they discussed Central American problems during their meeting because "the Nicaraguan problem cannot be discussed without taking into consideration the situation being experienced by all the Central American countries." The meeting was also attended by Senator Adolfo Gass, head of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, and his colleagues Julio Amadeo and Carlos Gomez Centurion.

Repeating previous statements he has made to journalists, the Nicaraguan Vice President said that his country intends to create "demilitarized zones on the borders with Costa Rica and Honduras." Ramirez explained to journalists that according to the proposal, these zones will "be placed under the control of Latin American forces to prevent operations by irregular forces."

Minutes before their meeting, President Raul Alfonsin had received Ramirez in a private audience at the Olivos residence. According to an official report, issues of bilateral interest were reviewed during the meeting.

Ramirez arrived in Buenos Aires from the capital of Brazil early Monday. While in Brasilia he held talks with Brazilian President Jose Sarney and Foreign Minister Olavo Setubal.

The Nicaraguan vice president said that 100 Cuban advisers have been sent home "as a good-will gesture. In return, however, we have not received a positive answer from the United States. On the contrary, the threat of an invasion has increased."

In both the press conference after his arrival and following his meetings with Alfonsin and Martinez, the Nicaraguan official expressed his government's concern over a possible invasion by the United States. Vice President Ramirez said: "Nicaragua cannot disarm without receiving anything in return. We cannot disarm because the United States can invade our country at any time. The U.S. Congress has just given Reagan all the pretexts he needs to decide to invade at any time."

Nicaraguan Vice President Sergio Ramirez will depart for Uruguay in the next few hours.

CAPUTO VIEWS UK DECISION TO ALLOW IMPORTS

PY091919 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1532 GMT 9 Jul 85

[Text] Buenos Aires, 9 Jul (TELAM) -- Foreign Minister Dante Caputo today announced that tomorrow the Argentine Government will issue a communique on the United Kingdom's unilateral decision to resume purchases from Argentina. Caputo made this announcement to reporters who questioned him about the British decision. He answered the journalists while he was participating in a ceremony commemorating Independence Day.

The foreign minister stated that we believe that the subject of sovereignty is what is separating the two countries. Therefore, a realistic vision of the problem cannot ignore the central point, in other words, sovereignty. He said, for example, that Great Britain began hostilities with Egypt over the Suez Canal in 1956 and that the hostilities came to an end, but that on that occasion there was absolutely no demand for a formal cessation of hostilities. He said that if that were the case, the United Kingdom would still be in conflict with Egypt, and that is not so. He stated that this is the case with Argentina, and therefore the cessation of hostilities is not a necessary condition for negotiations.

ALFONSIN REJECTS BLAME FOR RECENT LAYOFFS

PY091405 Buenos Aires BUENOS AIRES HERALD in English 7 Jul 85 p 1

[Text] (NA-DYN) -- President Raul Alfonsin yesterday said he is convinced his economic reform plan is not responsible for the recent wave of layoffs and he reiterated statements made on Friday night before top military officers that Argentines must put an end to the sequels of the so-called dirty war against subversion. The president referred to both labour and military issues while in Campana to celebrate the city's centennial and tour the Dalmine-Siderca steel plant.

Answering reporters' questions at an impromptu press conference at Dalmine-Siderca, Alfonsin said he was sure "the anti-inflation plan has not caused a single firing," and indirectly blamed some businessmen for the recent wave of layoffs. Alfonsin also said he was surprised by the dispute between Ford workers and management. "A revamping of the entire car industry is going on there and I'm very surprised about what has happened. I'm hopeful, but for now I just want to say that I'm surprised."

Referring to the issue of military involvement in the dirty war, Alfonsin stated the need to "define with more precision the various levels of responsibility between those who gave orders and those who followed them."

The president also admitted that Armed Forces officers "have never received such low salaries" but added that all must make efforts to overcome the economic crisis.

Alfonsin later in the day addressed some 2,000 Campana residents in the city's main plaza, promising that "those who have more will pay more" in the fight against inflation. The president was interrupted at one point by a small group of Communist Party youth shouting "fascist." Fixing his eyes on the rowdy group, Alfonsin resumed his speech saying, "...Coexistence, which does not mean discussing ideas using vulgar and insulting words." When the Communists continued with their chants, Alfonsin grew impatient, shouting back: "Those 15 be quiet so the rest of the thousands here can enjoy the celebration."

During his tour of the Dalmine-Siderca factory earlier in the day, Alfonsin was besieged by well-wishing metal workers. The president also received a written request by factory delegates to have Congress reinstate a law on work and health conditions repealed by the military regime in 1978. The president toured the steel plant's port as well as its furnace and laminating areas. Alfonsin travelled by helicopter to Campana, located 70 km north of the Federal Captial on the Parana River.

ALFONSIN, MINISTERS MEET WITH CGT LEADERS

PY100125 Buenos Aires BUENOS AIRES HERALD in English 9 Jul 85 p 1

[Text] (NA-DYN) -- President Raul Alfonsin yesterday promised the CGT [General Confederation of Labor] that no workers could be laid off without the knowledge of the Labour Ministry following a meeting with union leaders at Olivos presidential residence. Both the problem of dismissals and ideas for reactivation will be the subject of a special tripartite presidential advisory committee which is to consist of four representatives each from the sectors of government, management and labour. Alfonsin also told CGT Secretaries-General Saul Ubaldini, Osvaldo Borda and Ramon Baldassini that his government will pass a decree this week obliging all companies to notify the Labour Ministry of any lay-offs or suspensions before actually carrying them out. The fourth secretary-general, Jorge Triaca, was delayed by a Peronist congress in La Pampa.

Alfonsin was joined by Ministers Juan Sourrouille (economy), Hugo Barrionuevo (labour) and Aldo Neri (health) for the talks, which lasted from 10:10 am until 12:15 pm. According to presidential spokesman Jose Ignacio Lopez, Sourrouille told the unionists the government's anti-inflationary strategy was not to blame for the wave of lay-offs. Despite Neri's presence the issue of union social welfare funds was apparently not discussed.

The problem of the occupation of the General Pacheco Ford plant was also raised. The arrest of six of the occupiers, including at least two leaders, was ordered yesterday by San Isidro Judge Angel Papalia. They will face charges including "illegal deprivation of freedom" and willful damage, reliable sources revealed. Other sources predict the 4,000 workers will be forced out this week. But the workers were not idle on the litigation front, either, suing the Ford management for "abandoning the plant" as well as calling for Barrionuevo's impeachment and presidential mediation of the dispute. They also charged that they were being followed by Ford Falcons without licence plates and disowned the authority of SMATA [Trade Union of Mechanics and Related Automotive Transportation Workers] Secretary-General Jose Rodriguez to negotiate on their behalf. Barrionuevo spent an hour yesterday with Ford Chairman Robert Sparvero. Meanwhile, Peronist deputies Norberto Imbelloni and Domingo Purita, Intransigent Deputy Miguel Monserrat, and various socialist and communist leaders expressed their solidarity with the Ford workers.

In Cordoba the 1,800 workers of the local Renault plant spent the first of four Mondays in July in enforced idleness.

On other labour fronts a bank strike loomed over the liquidation of the Banco Juncal, which stayed occupied. True to their word over the weekend, the Juncal's employees refused to allow the receivers in. The bank clerks' union called a state of mobilization.

Finally, Christian Democrat Deputy Augusto Conte called for Congress to interrupt its winter holidays in order to pass a bill banning lay-offs.

LABOR LEADER DEFENDS GOVERNMENT POLICIES

PY091410 Buenos Aires BUENOS AIRES HERALD in English 7 Jul 85 p 13

[Text] (NA-DYN) -- Metal Workers' Union (UOM) chief Lorenzo Miguel yesterday defended the government from the wave of firings and suspensions that has hit the economy in recent weeks. Meanwhile, Ford workers continued their take-over of the company's plant in General Pacheco with no end in sight to the conflict begun on June 26.

The government "has nothing to do with" the firings and suspensions, Miguel told reporters before leaving yesterday for talks with union leaders in Italy. Instead Miguel blamed some businessmen for the recent job losses. "On the one hand they seem to be supporting the (anti-inflation) plan but on the other they are firing" workers. Miguel, who also leads the Peronist 62 Organizations, added that Peronists, Radicals and the government are "making every effort" to defeat inflation. "And I've observed that the government is being blamed for some things that it has nothing to do with, for example, the suspensions and firings."

Ford workers yesterday waited in vain for an expected Labour Ministry proposal to resolve the conflict over the firing of 33 assembly-line men. It was also reported that company officials on Friday told Labour Minister Hugo Barrioneuvo that Ford would appeal to the Supreme Court any decision to declare the company's decision illegal. Ford spokesman Alberto Salem yesterday told the HERALD he met with lower house Speaker Juan Carlos Pugliese on Friday afternoon to explain that Ford has no intention of leaving the country. Pugliese on Friday morning had suggested the U.S. company might be ready to pull out of Argentina. Salem said Ford has requested the meeting with Pugliese given his "legislative importance."

Ford workers themselves hardened their stance yesterday, with delegate Angel Abalos saying demands also included being paid for days lost during the take-over and assurances that workers will not be sanctioned for their protest action.

In other labour developments yesterday, police in Mendoza dislodged workers who had occupied the Minetti cement factory last Tuesday to protest the firing of 88 men. Meanwhile, Sevel motor company spokesmen said production at Sevel's plant in Cordoba will be suspended next Monday and on July 15-16. But workers are expected to be paid in full for the lost days. However, Mercedes Benz and a major auto parts maker, Perdriel, last Friday night reached agreements with workers to reduce planned suspensions.

In Cordoba, Rio Cuarto state workers sent a telegram to President Raul Alfonsin asking him to personally step in to prevent "the possible closure of the military factory" there. The factory recently refused to renew the contracts of 429 workers and state personnel claim the plant, if closed, would wipe out "fifty percent of the local economy."

OPPOSITION OPPOSES ELECTION POSTPONEMENT

PY091802 La Paz Cadena Panamericana in Spanish 1130 GMT 9 Jul 85

[Text] The decision of the government of Hernan Siles Zuazo to summon a special session of Congress to change the date of the upcoming 14 July elections has created a strong reaction from political circles. The Nationalist Democratic Action, ADN, through one of its high-ranking leaders, Deputy Antonio Ormachea Mendez, has repudiated and condemned the decision. He said that this is the culmination of the maneuvers of the Nationalist Revolutionary Movement of the Left [MNRI] to stay in power in a conspiracy with the Bolivian Labor Federation [COB] the leaders of the Bolivian Central Bank Union, and the Confederation of Peasants.

[Begin recording] My opinion is that this is the culmination of a series of maneuvers by the Popular Democratic Unity [UDP] government to prevent the holding of elections. The government realizes that its deals and conspiracy with the COB, the anarcho-syndicalism of the Central Bank, and the anarcho-syndicalism of the group headed by Genaro Flores have failed. All of the government plans have come apart systematically and gradually. This is the last card that the UDP government has up its sleeve to prevent the holding of the elections. This is only aimed at preventing a victory by General Banzer, who has received fantastic support that really represents a call to the people to elect Banzer president. With these maneuvers, the UDP government is trying to cover up its terrible failure before the people over its 2 and 1/2 years in government.

With this clumsy maneuver that violates all political, ethical, and moral principles in our country, Hernan Siles Zuazo is really recognizing the disastrous failure of his government, which has brought hunger, proverty, misery, and immorality into the country. [end recording]

Ormachea also said that the people must reject President Siles' delaying tactics, which are threatening the people's right to hold elections.

[Begin recording] As leader of ADN, the party of winning candidate Gen Hugo Banzer Suarez, I would like to alert the people of the country so they will realize that the government's efforts to stay in power are threatening the sovereign right of the people to hold elections on 14 July. By alerting the people to this clumsy maneuver, they should react to prevent this corrupt government from staying in power, because the UDP government has represented hunger, tears, and misery for his country. [end recording]

Luis Ossio Sanjines, the presidential candidate of the Chirstian Democratic Party [PDC], has also rejected the government decision calling for a special session of Congress. He pointed out that the two-thirds vote needed to get the postponement will not be obtained. He said that the government's decision is unwarranted. This is only aimed at creating uncertainty, because we should not forget that the first thing that must be obtained is a quorum; and second, after a quorum is achieved, the postponement of the elections must be resolved by obtaining a two-thirds vote to repeal a law that is in effect. The position of the representatives of the political parties in Congress is very clear. I believe that under no circumstance will the necessary two-thirds vote to postpone the elections be achieved. The PDC believes that we should resort to the elections as a peaceful means to resolve the political crisis, and then resolve the economic and social crisis. [end recording]

Paz Estenssoro's Nationalist Revolutionary Movement, MNR, believes that the call for a special session of Congress to postpone the elections is an attack on the electoral process. Carlos Perez, an MNR candidate for deputy, has said that the executive branch, and certainly the MNRI, realizing that they have lost, are trying to prevent a victory by Paz Estenssoro.

[Begin Perez recording] We believe that the decree signed by the executive branch is really an attack on the electoral process. The executive branch, realizing that it has lost this electoral campaign, will not hesitate to use its last resources to prevent a victory by my party, a victory by the chief of the national revolution, Victor Paz Estenssoro. During this electoral campaign Victor Paz has received great support, but unfortunately other parties are trying to obstruct this great support that the people are going to give Paz in the upcoming elections. I believe that this is an attack on the democratic process. [end recording]

Carlos Perez also pointed out that last night his party evaluated the government's decision to call for a special session of Congress and that the MNR will release an official document today.

[Begin recording] My party has evaluated the situation, and it is possible that a member of the MNR Political Commission will make an official declaration. Personally, as a national deputy, I believe that the government decree is antidemocratic and that it will not achieve its purpose, because the majority of congressmen believe that the elections should be held on 14 July and that Victor Paz will win because he has the support of the majority of the Bolivian people. [end recording]

The Revolutionary Front of the Left, FRI, through one of its leaders, Eusebio Gironda Cabrera, also has rejected the government proposal. He said that this is a maneuver planned by Siles and his group in a shameless attempt to remain in power.

[Begin recording] The so-called request by the government to postpone the elections is a new trick by Siles and his group, and a new demonstration of the antipopular and antinational policies carried out by the MNRI since October 1982. This is also a confirmation of Siles' complete lack of support among the masses. The MNRI unleashed this new maneuver because it realizes that no one supports its candidates in the cities or in the countryside. [end recording]

Eusebio Gironda Cabrera condemned the government's maneuver to stay in power.

[Begin recording] The FRI agrees with the other parties and protests and condemns this new government maneuver. It calls on all senators and deputies not to play the government's game, because Congress cannot play with the interests of the country, it cannot play with national interests. This is why there must be a clear answer. Therefore, we call on the Bolivian people, the civic institutions, the union organizations and the political parties to reject this new maneuver, which not only goes against the electoral process but also against the stability of the country, the democratic process, the continunity of the democratic forces in the government. During the past 3 years we have been waging a titanic struggle against the UDP government. In this regard, we have always pointed out that the government has carried out a policy of maneuvers. This is why we strongly reject the government's proposal and call on the people to reject this maneuver and if possible to go into the streets to defend the holding of the 14 July elections. This is our concrete opinion on this issue. [end recording]

In sum, the political parties strongly condemn the government's decision to call for a special session of Congress to postpone the elections.

The Movement of the Revolutionary Left, MIR, also rejects the government's proposal to postpone the general elections scheduled for 14 July. The MIR says that the proposal to postpone the elections is supported by minority political groups that have no chance of winning the elections. MIR member Rene Fernandez told Panamericana:

[Begin recording] [Words indistinct] a message strongly rejecting the government efforts to postpone the elections. First of all because the proposal has the support of minority groups who feel defeated, without any popular support, and who are afraid of the maturity of the Bolivian people. Second, the postponement will be a mockery of the Bolivian people's wishes. Third, the Bolivian people now have a chance to win with the candidacy of the new national majority. The message adds that the MIR electoral campaign will end successfully in the 14 July elections.

[Signed] Jaime Paz Zamora, Oscar Eid Franco [end recording]

This was a declaration issued by Rene Fernandez, one of the main leaders of the political party headed by Oscar Paz Zamora and Oscar Eid Franco.

BANZER CRITICIZES GOVERNMENT, SAYS COUP POSSIBLE

PY100338 La Paz Cadena Panamericana in Spanish 0000 GMT 10 Jul 85

[Text] The Nationalist Democratic Action, ADN, has reiterated that the general elections must be held on 14 July. During a press conference, ADN national leader Hugo Banzer Suarez charged that the Siles Zuazo-led government of the National Revolutionary Movement of the Left [MNRI] has attempted to frustrate the Bolivian people's aspirations by postponing the election. He said that at the special congressional session, ADN lawmakers will ask that the existing electoral law be ratified for the sake of the nation.

[Begin recording] President Siles Zuazo has told his assistants that he did not expect ADN, the ADN candidate, or the doctrine of nationalism to become the preferred alternatives of the Bolivian people. The ruling party's own polls have revealed this preference. Thus, the government despaired and lost all sense of reason. The ruling party does not want to hand over power to the winner of the elections; that is why they do not want the elections held as scheduled.

After the election is held on 14 July, and after the results are known, Bolivia and the rest of the world will know the people's decision. Under these circumstances, it will be impossible to disregard the nation's sovereign will, because power must be handed over to the winner of the election. It is a pity that some men should end up so deeply discredited after having had the chance to play a dignified role in the eyes of history. [end recording]

Banzer Suarez storngly condemned the government's antielectoral attitude. He said the current government wants to remain in power to satisfy personal ambitions.

[Begin recording] If they cannot postpone the elections, they will launch a smear campaign to discredit the results. Such a campaign could result in the resignation and withdrawal of the ruling party candidates, to leave some sectors without their leaders and to cause confusion. The campaign does not rule out the intervention of a few military officers of ultraradical tendencies in order to have the Armed Forces become involved in an adventure carried out under the pretext of restoring order.

Finally, there are those that in their unreasonableness and madness have considered having someone leave Government House as a sort of martyr of the violence that he himself advocates.

No one will end himself to satisfy this type of vanity. [end recording]

ADN has suspended the march scheduled for 10 July to avoid the provocations instigated by the government. We know that some political groups, following government instructions, want to disturb the clearly electoral objectives of ADN, Banzer said. He did not rule out the possibility of a coup being staged because the people's coexistence has been disturbed and the law violated.

[Begin recording] Anything can happen when normal coexistence is disturbed and when the law is violated. [end recording]

CONGRESS PRESIDENT COMMENTS ON SPECIAL SESSION

PY091842 La Paz Cadena Panamericana in Spanish 1700 GMT 9 Jul 85

[Text] Julio Garret Ayllon, the president of the National Congress, has said that he has summoned the committees of the legislative branch to comply with the government's request and has taken the necessary measures to ensure the holding of a special session of Congress.

Garret pointed out that if Congress cannot convene, the elections will have to be held on 14 July.

[Begin recording] I am fulfilling my constitutional duties. This morning I have taken all the necessary measures so that Congress can convene at 1500 on 11 July. I would like to reiterate the declaration I made to the press that if for any reason the special session of Congress cannot be held, the elections must be held on 14 July, in accordance with the date established by law, because only another law can change the election date. [end recording]

Garret Ayllon also explained the request made to the National Congress to meet on 11 July.

[Begin recording] [Garret] The government has requested that a special session of Congress be held on 11 July. I have the request here in my hand, and the special session will be held in accordance with Article 96, Clause 5, of the national Constitution, because it is our responsibility to hold the special session on the date called by the executive branch. The executive branch has [words indistinct] entrusted with the authority to call a special session, and we have the responsibility to take the necessary measures to hold the session.

[Reporter] Do you believe that there will be a quorum [words indistinct]?

[Garret] For obvious reasons, I cannot make any comments on that. [end recording]

It has become quite clear that if Congress does not convene on 11 July there will not be another meeting. Therefore, if Congress does not make any decision, the elections will have to be held on 14 July without fail, and according to the press this is what is going to happen.

BOMBS EXPLODE NEAR ELECTORAL BOARD MEMBER'S HOME

PY100224 Paris AFP in Spanish 0154 GMT 10 Jul 85

[Text] La Paz, 9 Jul (AFP) -- Two strong explosions in the Miraflores area (a La Paz residential neighborhood) have damaged several buildings and alarmed the population, the Bolivian police reported tonight.

The Fire Department reacted immediately, initiating the appropriate security measures while police detectives investigated the cause of the explosions.

One of the explosions occurred 100 meters from the Obrero Hospital in La Paz and the other in the so-called oil zone. The explosions come at a trying, tense time for Bolivia. The government's request to postpone the general elections, slated for 14 July, until 15 September has created a difficult political situation. The opposition has categorically stated that it is against any such postponement.

[Madrid EFE in Spanish at 0141 GMT on 10 July reports that "according to preliminary reports one of the explosions occurred near the residences of a high-ranking Electoral oard member and a government official."]

CENTRAL BANK WORKERS DECIDE TO END STRIKE

PY052348 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1644 GMT 5 Jul 85

[Text] La Paz, 5 Jul (EFE) -- The Bolivian Central Bank employees union has decided to end its general strike that started 3 weeks ago, demanding the resignation of the Central Bank president.

Economic activities were paralyzed during the strike, and there was concern that the strike might prevent the general and municipal elections from taking place on 14 July.

The Central Bank employees union decided to open the bank last weekend to pay the salaries of state employees, but the government sent police to block the bank entrances to prevent the measure, which it considered arbitrary and opportunistic.

The Central Bank has become a dependent of its own union, and did not even respond to the Bolivian Labor Federation's earlier petition to end the strike.

Mineworkers, state employees, and workers in general today threatened to adopt strong measures against the Central Bank union's aristocracy, who they contend are self-serving. They say that these people forget the problems of the rest of the workers who cannot receive their salaries because of the bank closure.

After reopening, the Central Bank will be submitted to an audit by the general comptroller's office, which for months has been demanding an investigation into the economic management of the union.

BRITISH SECRETARY HOWE MEETS CONGRESS LEADERS

PY100158 Brasilia Domestic Service in Portuguese 2200 GMT 9 Jul 85

[Text] Sir Geoffrey Howe, British secretary of state for foreign and Commonwealth affairs, today visited Senate President Jose Fragelli. Howe was accompanied by British Ambassador to Brazil John Ure and by Brazilian Ambassador to Great Britain Mario Gibson Barbosa.

Fragelli briefed his guest on the functioning of the Brazilian Congress, explaining the role Congress plays in the formulation of both internal and external policies. Also present was Senator Gastao Miller.

Howe also paid a courtesy visit to Deputy Ulysses Guimaraes, president of the Chamber of Deputies.

Holds Press Conference

PY102307 Paris AFP in Spanish 0244 GMT 10 Jul 85

[Text] Brasilia, 9 Jul (AFP) -- Sir Geoffrey Howe, British secretary of state for foreign and Commonwealth affairs, today stated in Brasilia that this country refuses to discuss an automatic transfer of sovereignty of the Malvinas Islands to Argentina. Howe held a press conference in Brasilia at the end of his 2-day official visit to this city during which the Malvinas issue seemed at times to overshadow bilateral affairs between Great Britain and Brazil.

However, Howe did not make it clear whether discussing sovereignty is tantamount to discussing automatic sovereignty. He insisted that after the 1982 conflict -- which we did not unleash, he said -- his country sponsored initiatives aimed at resuming dialogue with Argentina which would gradually lead to the reestablishment of normal relations between the two countries.

Howe recalled that the islanders had democratically chosen their own way of life and that Great Britain felt that its duty was to help them preserve it. He insisted that the new Mount Pleasant airport was purely defensive and would help the development of the islands in the future. He categorically denied that he had discussed, with his Brazilian counterpart Olavo Setubal, the possibility of British military airplanes using Brazilian airports en route to the Malvinas. Howe said: I have said that it is unrealistic and unreasonable to expect a discussion on an automatic transfer of sovereignty, that is why we insist on discussing practical matters.

Later he indicated that Great Britain is sympathetic toward the courageous and serious manner with which Brazil is approaching the problem of its foreign debt.

PRESIDENT SARNEY MAY RESHUFFLE CABINET

PY091358 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0821 GMT 9 Jul 85

[By Adalid Cabrera Lemuz]

[Text] Brasilia, 9 Jul (EFE) -- Brazilian President Jose Sarney is studying the possibility of reshuffling the cabinet to prevent the crisis affecting the ruling Democratic Alliance (AD) coalition from undermining the budding democracy. Sarney, who has proposed that political parties establish a national pact with the objective of overcoming the critical financial and social situation the country is experiencing, has expressed annoyance over disagreements within his government and the congressional government bloc.

The 55-year-old government leader has been presiding over the government since 15 March with a cabinet that he inherited from the late President Tancredo Neves. This cabinet has shown signs of deterioration in view of disagreements over the enforcement of changes and reforms in several national sectors. Confrontations and disagreements within the executive branch became public a few weeks after the start of the democratic process, which also was besieged by a series of labor strikes demanding that the government solve the present economic crisis.

Although one part of Sarney's cabinet has expressed support for peaceful and conciliatory negotiations to overcome the conflicts, another has demanded adoption of punitive measures to prevent the repeititon of similar incidents, which in their opinion undermined the constitutional process.

Another sign of disagreement within the government is the austerity plan proposed by Sarney to promote the recovery of the national economy in view of the position of Finance Minister Francisco Dornelles and Planning Minister Joao Sayad, who support the adoption of counterproposals to combat the economic crisis. Although Sarney has said that he is the person who makes the final decision, he has shown concern over his divided government, because its lack of equilibrium has generated criticism from labor, business, and political sectors and it has also made him lose credibility.

The official coalition in Congress has also demonstrated inconsistency in positions adopted by congressmen belonging to the Brazilian Democratic Mobilization Party (PMDB) and to the Liberal Front Party (PFL).

According to government sources, if the lack of unity continues, the future of the governing Democratic Alliance coalition can endanger the mayoral elections set for 15 November 1985. These elections will be the first test for the Brazilians in this democratic period.

The same sources have said Sarney has not yet reorganized his cabinet, despite the fact that some of his ministers have expressed their willingness to resign, because he does not want to deepen the crisis, and therefore he has taken positive steps to rebuild the unity of the Democratic Alliance.

Negotiations regarding the proposal for a national pact will only achieve the intended objective if Sarney finally achieves the unity of the governing front, according to people close to him.

While the Brazilian Government is trying to achieve unity, the economic and social crisis has become more serious due to the continuing increases in the cost of living that have reduced the purchasing power of salaries, which is the main cause of labor unrest.

RESTRUCTURING OF NUCLEAR PROGRAM PROPOSED

PY040154 Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 27 Jun 85

[Text] According to the current Brazilian Nuclear Corporation [Nuclebras] president, Licinio Seabra, the solution to the Brazilian nuclear program calls for the complete restructuring of Nuclebras and its six subsidiaries to turn them into a subsidiary department of the Brazilian Electric Power Companies [Electrobras]. This department would construct power plants. Only a small independent company would be left in charge of the fuel cycle. The Brazilian Government is to analyze this proposal in the next few days.

By following the French model, in which the electric companies are responsible for the construction of nuclear power plants, the Brazilian Government would begin to dismantle the FRG-Brazilian nuclear program that was launched 10 years ago, on 27 June 1975, by President Geisel. In those days, Minister Shigeaki Ueki and the first Nuclebras president, Paulo Nogueira Baptista, initially intended to construct eight nuclear power plants worth $40 billion plus another 35 power plants before the year 2000.

In this manner, Brazil intended to become a nuclear power that would construct nuclear power plants for itself and for Third World countries. Also it would supply enriched uranium. The Nuclebras company was then formed. Today it has 5,200 employees and a payroll of more than $3.5 million monthly. However, it suffered losses of 173.2 billion cruzeiros in 1983 and 139.3 billion cruzeiros last year.

Since 1975, the only substantial production by Nuclebras, which has an annual budget of 7 trillion cruzeiros, is "bureaucracy." Several subsidiaries were formed: Nuclebras Heavy Equipment, Inc [Nuclep], Nuclebras Isotope Enrichment, Inc [Nuclei], Nuclebras Mining Assistance, Inc [Nuclemon], Nuclebras Engineering, Inc [Nucien], and Nuclebras Nuclear Plant Construction, Inc [Nucon], which are all in Brazil; plus one in the FRG, Nustep [expansion unknown]. Nuclebras spent $2.8 billion in 10 years, which, added to the $1.8 billion paid on the debt, total $4 billion. This represents the total loss if the company were liquidated right now.

Brazil was unsuccessful in obtaining sensitive technology, such as the uranium enrichment process, through an agreement. Brazil bought ultracentrifugal technology that was tested and developed by its German creators. However, under U.S. pressure, the Germans backed off and offered Brazil a new, untested technology, leaving us to take the risk that it would someday become a successful and profitable technology. After 10 years of laboratory tests that ultracentrifugal uranium enrichment process, which is called jet nozzle, is still neither technologically nor scientifically viable.

In an uncertain and bold manner, and without first developing its own technology, Brazil tried to join the restricted group of countries that have mastered the uranium enrichment process. Also, it intended to sell nuclear power plants to Third World countries, which led Geisel, Ueki, and Paulo Nogueira Baptista to overextend the program by constructing the Nuclep factory, the world's most modern factory of heavy equipment, in Itaguai. According to Licinio Seabra, it cost $350 million.

Seabra believes that the problem of the idle Nuclep factory could be solved through privatization if Brazilian businessmen were interested. This factory serves as a storage area for the Angra II and Angra III power plant equipment that was stored in the port of Hamburg before coming to Brazil, and has been admired by U.S., Japanese, and European businessmen, who only regret that they were not seeing it operating. In the opinion of the businessmen who have visited it, not even the Arabs would dare to do so much.

Considering the constant construction delays, the Angra II and III power plants may face the same problems as the Angra I plant, which resembles a "firefly" that turns on and off because of its undependable equipment. Angra I needs an additional $300 million to start operating safely. There is more than $3 billion worth of equipment stockpiled in Itaguai, including sophisticated electronic equipment, turbines with very heavy axles that would bend if they were not turned periodically. There is a lot of equipment that, according to technicians, will be damaged by rust resulting from sea breezes to which it is exposed.

As if those problems were not enough, Nuclebras has put up with the government's lack of interest and with more than 300 suppliers and contractors who are trying almost daily to get their money. Licinio Seabras has to make a great effort to come up with funds to meet monthly payments. Suppliers of fuel, wire, and even food for Nuclep workers only accept payment in cash, no more credit.

The enterprise, which "has lived in a fantasy world" since its inception, as Licinio Seabras himself says, will not be able to survive in the new Republic, which demands efficiency and profitability from state-run enterprises. According to Licinio Seabras, the greatest error of Nuclebras was not starting with its own well-defined source of resources like Petrobras, which got its resources from a single tax on lubricants and fuels. Now, according to him, Nuclebras is unviable and unmanageable. The solution will be to tie it directly to the electricity sector and to adopt the French managerial model, transferring to Eletrobras the responsibility for building the Angra II and Angra III nuclear plants, and perhaps one more nuclear plant, to avoid having to dismiss the team of technicians and engineers.

Nuclebras will continue to work on the fuel cycle and on process engineering. It will build a new uranium concentrating plant in the Lagoa Real mine, Bahia State, since the production at the Pocos de Caldas plant is not only insufficient to supply three nuclear plants, but employs an inefficient industrial process that makes its expansion unadvisable. As for the fuel cycle, it is to be hoped that Brazil is successful in getting its technology to work, because, in the opinion of Licinio Seabras, no compliant can be made to the FRG.

Paulo Richer, secretary general of the Mines and Energy Ministry, said yesterday in Brasilia, on the tenth anniversary of the signing of the Brazilian-FRG nuclear agreement, that the country cannot dispense with the future use of nuclear energy. Mines and Energy Minister Aureliano Chaves plans to tailor the Brazilian nuclear program to the real availability of resources. In line with this thinking, Nuclebras plans to invest a minimum of 1.8 trillion cruzeiros this year. The mines and energy minister is considering the possibility of halting the construction of new nuclear plants until the question of financing has been resolved.

CANADA WANTS INVESTIGATION OF COBALT SHIPMENT

PY082252 Paris AFP in Spanish 2346 GMT 5 Jul 85

[Text] Ottawa, 5 Jul (AFP) -- Canadian authorities have asked the Brazilian Atomic Energy Commission to investigate a shipment of radioactive cobalt that was sent from one country to the other and which may have contaminated several people, according to the Canadian state-owned Atomic Energy Corporation.

On 18 February, a hospital in Brasilia sent on board the Brazilian ship Joanna, belonging to the Netumar Shipping Company, 1,700 curies of Cobal-60, manufactured in Canada which had been used for cancer treatment. Having been used for 8 years the isotopes had lost most of their therapeutic qualities, but were still capable of emitting a considerable number of gamma rays.

According to the Canadian authorities the cobalt was shipped without using the appropriate containers that prevent irradiation. Only upon receiving the shipment, on 28 March, in Ottawa, did the officials of the Canadian Atomic Energy Corporation (EACL) realize the danger. The radioactivity of the package was above the accepted yearly dosage, of approximately 500 milirems. The EACL reported the incident to the Brazilian authorities to enable the latter to investigate the possible irradiation to which the workers who had handled the package, especially the 34 crewmen of the ship, may have been subjected.

FEBRES CORDERO DISCUSSES OPEC, ECONOMIC ISSUES

PA071849 Mexico City EXCELSIOR in Spanish 29 Jun 85 pp 1, 22 A, 36

["Exclusive" interview with President Leon Febres Cordero by Luis Suarez, at the National Palace in Quito on 28 June]

[Excerpts] When I started with the first question, I told Febres Cordero that Ecuador has been termed undisciplined within OPEC, because it went over the export quota assigned to it. Then I asked him if he believes his country has explained its position sufficiently. He replied:

"Definitely, yes. Regardless of the opinions that some may have had about Ecuador's sovereign conduct (and I want to be very clear on this) concerning the country's capacity to produce and sell oil, we do not feel that we have been undisciplined within OPEC. Although we have gone over the quota assigned by OPEC to Ecuador, the country's presence as an exporter is so small that its influence on production and prices is small. I would say, with due respect, that the undisciplined are those who, having a large production capacity, have been overproducing and selling excessively, far beyond the assigned quotas on the international market, using mechanisms such as barter to pay for assets and goods that they buy in other countries while we, who have a quota that has not been updated in a long time and who export only 60 million barrels per year, need to export these barrels to feed the Ecuadoran people."

Question: In your judgment, wouldn't an increase in production by 50 or 100 percent bring about a profound crisis and perhaps the disintegration of OPEC?

Answer: I believe that the presence of OPEC as a coordinating and regulating factor of production volumes vis-a-vis the world demand is very important. OPEC must survive. However, we cannot accept that Ecuador, which is the smallest country within the group, become the scapegoat of a policy of undiscipline that is being carried out basically by the large exporters. Any effort to stabilize prices on the international market is welcome, and we will try to help as much as possible. In the past few days we made a great sacrifice by reducing our production by approximately 10 percent. This was made as a sign of my country's good faith in the search for an understanding among OPEC member countries.

Question: Mr President, has Ecuador made any suggestions for a common action, such as that of an informal group of Latin American countries to include Mexico, Venezuela, Ecuador itself, and Trinidad and Tobago? What common actions could these OPEC and non-OPEC members take to defend views?

Answer: The oil problem affects the world community. It also affects OPEC members and nonmembers because they are all oil producers. What we are looking for, basically, and what we have set out to do in the creation of a group of Latin American oil producers is to talk with Arab countries and the world's largest producers on an equal basis.

Question: Would it be a kind of Latin American OPEC?

Answer: I wouldn't want to give it a name. It is simply the joint effort of Latin American, Third World, and developing countries that desperately need foreign exchange from oil exports to build basic infrastructures in our countries.

But dotting the i's and crossing the t's, frankly and clearly speaking, it is not acceptable that we are asked to make great sacrifices while there are excesses in other parts of the world, and I state this firmly.

Question: Could you say why we have reached this somewhat anarchic situation in the oil market?

Answer: I believe that the origin of the crisis lies in OPEC itself. It faced a very special circumstance in this contemporary world when oil prices skyrocketed to levels that have now proven to be impractical and transitory. This impractical and transitory situation led to a more normal and realistic stage, which implied a drop in oil prices, which has been the case of the past few years, thus bringing about a high social cost because it resulted in economic and political problems affecting the individual.

Question: Mr President, from what you are saying, would I be correct in reaching the conclusion that a small country that does not produce much oil, as a matter of fact very little, is not in a condition to resist economic pressures without having to resort to the use of...?

Answer: (Febres Cordero abruptly interrupts) To make the maximum use of its resources -- I apologize for interrupting you, but while you talked, I was following your question mentally. Therefore, I would like to further explain this concept. For example, within the Andean integration agreement, which originally included Colombia, Venezuela, Ecuador, Peru, Chile, and Bolivia; Bolivia and Ecuador received and still receive preferential treatment because they were at a disadvantage compared to the other more developed countries.

This analogy can also be applied in the case of OPEC and the oil-exporting countries. How can we ask a small country with multiple problems, like Ecuador, -- this does not mean that the other countries do not have their own problems -- a small country trying to start its own development, to make the same sacrifices as the more developed and economically powerful countries? There must be some kind of advantage, some sort of aid from the powerful countries for the small countries.

Question: Do you think it is just to pay the foreign debt by increasing oil exportation while the prices are dropping, that is, to increase production so as to compensate for the drop in prices?

Answer: Any formula that we can find to help the debtor countries alleviate in some way the tremendous burden represented by the foreign debt interests is welcome. I want to make this very clear, as I usually do: No one imposed the foreign debt on us, we abused our credit capacity. Unfortunately, on many occasions we abused it in order to use the money that came from abroad not even to build our country's infrastructure, but to meet budget deficits and pay wages. The fact is that we have the foreign debt, and serious and sovereign countries must meet their obligations. If the industrialized countries, the industrialized democracies, would give us a hand in the desperate efforts we are making to meet our obligation and pay our debt by keep buying our oil at prices that would allow us to pay the debt, then we would be giving the problem a very interesting solution.

Question: Do you think that this situation, which demands more production in order to compensate for the lower prices, will eventually lead to a depletion of our nonrenewable resources and the industrialized countries' sacking our resources for their own benefit?

Answer: We are all absolutely interdependent. Whatever a country or a group of countries approve at a given time will have its repercussions in the other countries of the world. Often, as in the case of oil, it becomes a sort of boomerang. Because if there is one product whose change in price affects the scale of prices on articles and services produced and consumed by many people, that product is oil. We also have an interrelation, although not easy to explain mathematically, either with axioms or corollaries. Whenever you alter some economic standards, this will have repercussions. The exaggerated price of oil at one time forced the industrialized countries to a discipline in the use of fuels, the consequences of which the oil-exporting countries are paying today.

Question: What are we going to do now?

Answer: This makes us think seriously about handling our countries' economies, and the world's economy in general, without taking advantage of one another, because in the long run the old saying that every bill is eventually due, and every bill must be paid, is a fact.

Question: Then you believe that the debt will be paid?

Answer: It will and must be paid; first, because we have to defend the prestige of our countries as such, and second, because we need to resort to new credits based on that prestige. We do not generate enough savings in our country to finance our development. Therefore, we must resort to foreign savings, and to do this we must be current in our payments.

Question: Now that the debt has become an international problem, would your government agree to participate in an effort to look for a solution? Although you said that it must be paid, you also understand that it is not easy. Would Ecuador support a meeting of Third World countries to study this problem?

Answer: We are willing to resort to any forum we are invited to, and we would take that opportunity to express our view clearly and frankly. I view other countries' grave problems with profound concern and sympathy. I have the same problems here in Ecuador, trying to service the foreign debt, the amortization of capital, and interest payment.

You understand that as a leader of a free and sovereign country my main concern is my country's fate. If by solving my country's problems, so that my people can enjoy a good life as a result of a stable economy, I can help the rest of the countries of the world improve their situation, then you can be sure that I would make every effort and devote all my work to that. However, my first obligation -- and perhaps I am sound selfish, but perhaps it is more pragmatism than selfishness -- is to solve my country's problems. To solve the debt problem we have implemented a reorganization plan for economic rehabilitation that includes very harsh measures whose political cost has been very high for me personally, and whose social cost has been very high for my people. However, it is a lower cost than we would have had to pay if these measures hadn't been taken in time.

Question: What about your trip to Cuba? Did you discuss the foreign debt problem with Fidel Castro?

Answer: Of course. He talked extensively. Out of the 48 hours, which was the length of my stay in Cuba, we talked for approximately 16 hours. The foreign debt, if not the main topic, was one of the main topics of our talks. I listened to his views carefully, and many of them are very reasonable.

He listened to mine attentively. I think he accepted many of the arguments I presented to him. We reached the conclusion that, more important than solving the foreign debt problem, a difficult and complicated task, we must reorganize our countries' economies. We must understand that the foreign debt is not the only problem we have. If tomorrow, by magic, our foreign debt were written off, what guarantee do we have that we would not fall into the same trap in the next 10 years because we have not put our economies in order, the way we should, and because we have not implemented the austerity demanded by the current moment? We discussed the problem from a conceptual and broad view. We agreed that it is the obligation of leaders not only to settle the foreign debt problem but to put our economies in order.

Question: Considering this experience, do you mean to say that this type of problem should be handled considering the political regime in each country?

Answer: Do you think that hunger, want, and poverty are of any political color? These are social blemishes that we must correct. The approach to a solution can be different, but these are problems that have to be solved. The fact that our ideologies are different and that we live in completely different political worlds does not prevent us, as rational and presumably intelligent human beings, from dialogue and discussion to find solutions for our common problems.

Question: Can it be inferred that in the current diplomacy the personal behaviors of state and government heads have a very great influence, apart from their embassies' normal functions?

Answer: I like this topic very much. I think one of the biggest mistakes during the past few years, particularly in the countries that speak a common language, is alienation among heads of state. The personal contact and the breaking of ice between two human beings -- who are more than just heads of state but are flesh and blood, and suffer the same pains, concerns, and unrest because they are loaded down with *responsibilities -- allows them to find practical and feasible solutions more rapidly.* During the short time, 10 months, that I have been head of state, I have observed that every time I had a chance to talk directly with a president, the two of us have been able to discuss serious problems and find rapid solutions. I have often talked to Presidents Lusinchi, Betancur, Alfonsin, Sanguinetti, and De la Madrid, who welcomed me at the Mexico airport. Diplomacy is necessary, yet sometimes a little slow. Current problems are very pressing and must be solved quickly.

Question: From the political viewpoint, did your trip to Cuba have any domestic or foreign consequences?

Answer: When we politicians make a decision, we must be aware that not everyone will agree with it. Some will agree and some will disagree. Something similar happened regarding my trip to Cuba, which was important for me for reasons beyond the negative reactions it may have generated. The importance of the fact that two leaders, who belong to two entirely different worlds, can sit down as gentlemen and discuss and analyze problems and try to find solutions will be demonstrated in time.

Question: Is it worthwhile to challenge contrary opinions?

Answer: Yes, sir.

Question: Many other Ecuadoreans go to Cuba, as probably do those who oppose your government. Does this have any particular meaning or none at all?

Answer: That's right.

My conversations with Commander Fidel Castro were very clear. Ecuador's international policy is based on three principles: nonintervention, self-determination of the peoples, and peaceful solution of problems. On these grounds, we maintain the best possible relations with all countries of the world. We do not permit any foreign intervention. We were very specifc on this.

During the rest of the interview, we also tounched on the imminent change of government in Peru with the accession of President-elect Alan Garcia. Regarding the possibility of this helping the territorial dispute between Ecuador and Peru, President Febres Cordero said that since he assumed office the best possible relations have been maintained with Peru "beyond the issue that unfortunately exists." He hopes that the relations between the two nations continue as best as possible and added: "We will exert our efforts toward this objective."

Regarding the diminished chance for a peaceful solution in Central America, he said: "There is hope as long as there is life." He also said that every effort, such as that of the Contadora Group, to find a peaceful solution deserves support from all countries in the world. He believes, however, that "it will be necessary to make the Contadora process a little more dynamic." He added: "Peace is urgent and necessary. Perhaps too much diplomacy and too many negotiations only waste time and make problems worse in this kind of conflict."

Ties With Peru

PA031636 Quito Voz de los Andes in Spanish 1130 GMT 2 Jul 85

[Text] President Leon Febres Cordero has stated that Ecuador currently maintains cordial relations with Peru and that he hopes they will continue at the same level with the new Peruvian president, Alan Carcia. He said that he will make very effort to achieve this. Since I took office, we have maintained cordial relations, regardless of the problem that currently exists between the two countries, Febres Cordero said in remarks to several journalists and to Mexican television that were released by the National Secretariat for Public Information [Sendip].

The Ecuadoran president addressed the topics of foreign policy, relations with Peru, the Central American problem, and the Contadora Group. Febres Cordero said that his government's foreign policy is based on very clear principles with deep roots of justice and human rights. He added that those principles are nonintervention in the internal affairs of other countries, legitimate self-determination of peoples, and the peaceful solution of conflicts. Based on these principles, we maintain the best relations with all the world's countries, Febres Cordero stressed.

'ALFARO LIVES' DENIES RESPONSIBILITY FOR BLAST

PA061425 Quito Radio Quito in Spanish 2300 GMT 5 Jul 85

[Text] This radio station has received a note from the Alfaro Lives movement in which it reports to the nation that it had nothing to do with the explosion of dynamite at the office of Deputy Lenin Rosero of the Democratic Popular Alliance. The Alfaro Lives movement stated that it sympathizes with Lenin Rosero and those leaders who are struggling for their country's and people's true interests. The note says that the Alfaro Lives movement is absolutely opposed to terrorism as a political weapon, but that nevertheless the movement will be accused of such actions in order to discredit it. However, the ideals and principles on which the movement is based will prove that its members want real democracy so that we can have justice and equality for the benefit of the majority of the country's population.

GARCIA'S PREMIER, CABINET MINISTERS NAMED

PY091730 Lima Radio del Pacifico in Spanish 1300 GMT 9 Jul 85

[Excerpts] According to information obtained from very reliable sources, Luis Alva Castro, the second vice president-elect, will be premier of the ministerial cabinet to be installed on 28 July. Alva Castro will also occupy the post of economy and finance minister.

Allan Wagner, the young minister counselor in the Peruvian Embassy in Washington, will be appointed foreign minister of the first American Revolutionary Popular Alliance government. This information ends rumors on who will be foreign minister.

Wagner has been in permanent contact with President-elect Alan Garcia, whose election was confirmed aobut 1 month ago.

GARCIA TO PROPOSE FREEZING ARMS PURCHASES

PY091728 Lima Radio Del Pacifico in Spanish 1300 GMT 9 Jul 85

[Text] Last night Peruvian President-elect Alan Garcia Perez announced that he will meet in Lima with Latin American heads of state, to whom he will propose the freezing of arms purchases.

Garcia Perez made this statement at the American Revolutionary Popular Alliance headquarters upon his return to Lima after visiting La Joya Air Base in the morning in response to an invitiation from the Air Force leadership.

Alan Garcia said the subject of freezing arms puchases should be agreed on at the regional level, and his talks with Latin American heads of state attending his inauguration will focus on this proposal.

APRA EXPERT CALLS IMF PRESCRIPTION UNACCEPTABLE

PY081749 Lima Radio Pacifico in Spanish 1300 GMT 8 Jul 85

[Text] The American Revolutionary Popular Alliance [APRA] government will not negotiate the repayment of the foreign debt with the IMF, according to APRA expert Guillermo Castaneda. He added that this is because IMF prescriptions make short-term demands which, if satisfied, would exacerbate poverty among the people.

Castaneda said it is necessary to adopt this attitude because the IMF scheme cannot be adapted to the reality of Peru nor to all of Latin America. Castaneda, an expert in banking and finances, who is being mentioned as a candidate for the Reserve Bank presidency, stated that the solution to the foreign debt repayment problem must be sought on a medium-term basis. Castaneda said that since 1984, Peru has been paying 20 percent of the debt, and it will not be able to pay more.

NICARAGUA'S RAMIREZ ARRIVES ON OFFICIAL VISIT

PY092107 Paris AFP in Spanish 1521 GMT 9 Jul 85

[Text] Montevideo, 9 Jul (AFP) -- Nicaraguan Vice President Sergio Ramirez Mercado arrived this morning in Uruguay on an official 48-hour visit within the framework of a South American tour that has included Brazil and Argentina among other countries. During his stay in Uruguay, Ramirez will hold meetings with President Julio Sanguinetti, Enrique Tarigo, his counterpart, and with Foreign Minister Enrique Iglesias. He will also visit Congress and will hold meetings with the leaders of the main Uruguayan political parties. Ramirez will also attend a solemn session at Montevideo City Hall and will deliver a speech at the university. The objective of Ramirez Mercado's trip is to obtain support from Latin American countries in view of the fear of the Nicaraguan Government regarding an eventual U.S. invasion. During his stay in Brazil, Ramirez requested President Jose Sarney's intervention to expedite the negotiations of the Contadora Group (Panama, Colombia, Mexico and Venezuela) which is studying the Central American issue and possible solutions. The Sandinist leader will leave Uruguay on Wednesday.

SANGUINETTI MEETS NAVY, AIR FORCE COMMANDERS

PY091726 Montevideo Radio Carve in Spanish 0000 GMT 9 Jul 85

[Excerpt] The president of the Republic and the commanders in Chief of the Navy and the Air Force have held a lengthy meeting. Lieutenant General Manuel Buadas and Vice Admiral Hugo de Barros today met with the head of state at the Libertad Building and discussed confidential matters. Carve has learned that Institutional Act 19 and the country's social situation were tabled at the meeting. A similar meeting was held last week between the president and Army Commander Lieutenant General Hugo Medina, who reportedly told President Sanguinetti about the general feeling within the Armed Forces when the subject of revisionism is discussed publicly or in Congress. After that meeting, the country's situation was viewed with concern, although it was partly overcome when the general stoppage declared for Friday was suspended. The revisionist attitude against the Armed Forces' actions over the past few years has of course caused displeasure among the military officers. A military source has stated that each time the subject is mentioned in Congress or publicly, it immediately provokes concern among the Armed Forces. Because of this situation, the president himself has stated that the past must be left for historians while he must be engaged in building the future. He has already rejected the possibility of accusing the Armed Forces of having committed abuses during the armed confrontation with subversion.

On another front, public employees are demanding that the salary increase should be 35 percent and not the 18 percent announced by the government. A meeting will be held tomorrow at 1400 at the Inter Union Workers Plenum-National Convention of Workers to study a counterproposal to be submitted to the Labor Ministry that will include a request for a minimum increase of 35 percent. The government has already announced that the increase granted to public employees will be 18 percent, plus 2 percent for the recovery of the real purchasing power of salaries. It has also been reported that in the most neglected sectors such as education and health, the increase could reach 23 percent.

PARTIES AGREE NOT TO REPEAL INSTITUTIONAL ACT

PY091858 Montevideo El Espectador Network in Spanish 0930 GMT 9 Jul 85

[Excerpt] The Colorado Party, the broad Front, and the Civic Union have agreed not to vote in favor of the motion to repeal Institutional Act 19.

The president of the Republic called a meeting to discuss whether to summon a constituent assembly. In addition to President Sanguinetti, the meeting was attended by Enrique Tarigo for the Colorado Party, General Seregni and Senator Jose Pedro Cardozo for the Broad Front, and Humberto Ciganda for the Civic Union. All the party representatives agreed during the meeting that there is no need to amend the 1967 Constitution. Therefore, the politicians did not deem it necessary to summon a constituent assembly. The party representatives said that should an assembly be summoned, they would attend but would maintain the same stance. In the afternoon, in order to analyze Institutional Act 19, President Sanguinetti summoned the Armed Forces commanders. The meeting was attended to by Lieutenant General Manuel Buadas, Vice Admiral Hugo de Barros, and General (Guillermo de Nava), on behalf of Army Commander Lieutenant General Hugo Medina.

ARMY OFFICERS CHALLENGE SENATOR TO DUEL

PY091733 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0240 GMT 9 Jul 85

[By Pepe Leira]

[Text] Montevideo, 8 Jul (EFE) -- A dozen military officers accused in connection with the disappearance of people during the Uruguayan de facto regime and offended by a congressman have set off a political storm by challenging the alleged offender to a duel 4 months after the restoration of democracy in the country. The Army officers have requested authorization from their superiors to send a representative to challenge German Araujo, senator for the Broad Front leftist coalition, who last week reported that Armed Forces and law enforcement officers participated in torture sessions of detainees and in their eventual execution. Araujo gave his reports at two Senate sessions and sent documents to a criminal court judge so the borders could be closed to those involved while the matter is being investigaged. Araujo's reports were mainly intended to throw light on the case of teacher Helena Quinteros, who was kidnapped 9 years ago from the grounds of the Venezuelan Embassy in Montevideo. Quinteros is among 20 persons who disappeared during the 12 years of military rule in Uruguay. Quinteros' kidnapping provoked the breaking of relations between Venezuela and Uruguay, which were resumed only when Sanguinetti took over the government.

Senator Araujo's accusations touched off a scandal over human rights violations, a subject that has been somewhat neglected by the democratic government. Under his policy of a peaceful transition without disturbing the Armed Forces, President Sanguinetti favors merciful forgetfulness. He has repeatedly advocated not looking backward and letting bygones be bygones. The storm was raised over the intention of the offended Army officers and the existence of an old law in Uruguay, whereby injuries and even death caused in gentlemanly duels are not prosecuted. Opposition legislators are demanding that Sanguinetti, as supreme commander of the Armed Forces, prevent the torturers and assassins from taking advantage of the old law to defend what cannot be defended. Sanguinetti, who as a legislator before the 1973 coup fought a duel with the late journalist and politician Manuel Flores, has not yet reacted to the legislators' request.

This week promises to be very turbulent in Uruguay, especially if the Honor Tribunal, which is made up of three generals, should grant the requests of the officers who want to challenge Araujo to a duel. Lieutenant Colonel Nino Gavazzo, who is accused of directing torture sessions on several occasions and coordinating the killing of members of the Uruguayan opposition in Argentina, heads the list of those who intend to duel with Senator Araujo.

Deputy Hector Lopez Balestra of the main opposition party, the National Party, has said the attempt to resolve the question through a duel is unprecedented, and supported his leftist colleague. He also asked all congressmen, regardless of party affiliation, to support Senator German Araujo.

LUSINCHI ADDRESSES NATION ON INDEPENDENCE DAY

PA060014 Caracas Domestic Service in Spanish 1308 GMT 5 Jul 85

[Address to the Nation by President Jaime Lusinchi to mark Independence Day at the National Congress building -- live]

[Text] Mr President and Mr Vice President of Congress, Mr Chairman and magistrates of the Supreme Court of Justice, Your Eminence Cardinal (Jose Ali Lebru Moratinos), archbishop of Caracas; Mr President and members of the Supreme Electoral Council; Mr President and members of the impeachment court; Mr former President of the Republic Dr Rafael Caldera; Mr Ministers of the cabinet; Mr Governor of the Federal District; Mr Senators and Deputies of the National Congress; Your Excellencies the ambassadors, heads of diplomatic missions, and charges d'affaires of friendly countries; Mr Attorney General; Mr Public Prosecutor; Mr President and members of the municipal councils of the Federal District and the Sucre District of Miranda State; Mr Generals and Admirals who compose the military high command; Your Excellencies and Most Reverend Monsignors, auxilliary bishops of Caracas; Mr Presidents and Directors of the national academies; Mr Rectors of the national universities; Mr Presidents of autonomous institutes and state enterprises; Mr Directors of executive offices; ladies and gentlemen; people of Venezuela:

The commemoration of our independence every 5 July cannot be just a moment of national joy celebrated with formal symbolism. It cannot be turned into a ritual. It must also be, especially now, a moment for careful thinking, gaining awareness, and a careful analysis that will allow all Venezuelans to examine the road behind us, to study the present critically and constructively, and to view the future with optimism.

On 5 July 1812, we began a more promising future. We also started down a road full of responsibilities and difficulties that we Venezuelans have faced with various resources and efforts that have given us a relatively important status in world events throughout our history.

Since 1958, this generation of Venezuelans have been marching on a democratic path and strengthening what our forefathers bequeathed to us on a day like today. We have been doing this in an international environment fraught with serious contemporary problems and with conflicts and dilemmas that test our ability to respond and our will to defend national interests and aspirations that we consider most important. Today, perhaps more than ever, we are struggling to guarantee our economic and social development and to safeguard the spirit of that bright 5 July.

These objectives, which are closely linked to consolidating independence and to strengthening our sovereignty, have most important connotations in the country's foreign policy. There are continuously increasing challenges that demand perseverance, tenacity, and the will to overcome in the midst of growing and formidable difficulties.

We are completely aware of our possibilities and our limitations, of our role in the world, and, especially, in the Latin American region. Because of convictions and historic foundations, we work hard to participate and contribute effectively in favor of dialogue and understanding among nations in a world where, unfortunately, intransigency and lack of understanding are most common.

I say this because, since those who have clear responsibilities in the international community lack a sense of decision, we are facing the risk of not being ready at these most important times and of throwing away opportunities that would enhance international relations.

We are not avoiding our responsibilities as a developing country committed to democracy, respect for human rights, solidarity, and the promotion of peace. We don't want to pretend, either, that we are the spokesmen for quixotic ideas. We are sure, however, that in the fact of undeniably unjust and absurd international situations, we cannot remain unmoved or give up on hopes and possibilities of seeing rectifications that must be made, as evidence shows daily.

Therefore, efforts against confrontations and against ambitions of domination and the nuclear arms race are never too many. Efforts against attempts to weaken the development possibilities of many countries through manipulations and conspiracies for infamous reasons are never too many.

This year we commemorate the 40th anniversary of the creation of the United Nations. Forty years have passed since that extraordinary event that opened new hopes for all the people of the world who want peace, harmony, and justice. These aspirations have grown and become a universal clamor that transcends frustration, the cold war, and the precarious periods of detente and peace that are marked by open hostility among the superpowers. Today we are reaffirming our faith in the United Nations, in the validity and significance of its principles and aims, and in the need for strengthening the role that the United Nations should have as the organization responsible for seeking rapprochement and understanding among states.

I would like to point out the determining role that the Latin American group had for years in the UN debates. Acting in line with our historic roots and our will to be free, we strongly contributed to the decolonization process that made a new international situation possible with the emergence of free countries in Africa and Asia. Today Latin America should somehow retake that road of general importance with coherent, coordinated work in line with the large resources and characteristics of the region.

Since I assumed the presidency of the Republic, we have made every effort to strengthen, with specific actions, postulates that we believe are intrinsic to the visions that we have as a sovereign nation. For this reason, we have intensified our participation in the peace and goodwill work of the Contadora Group for the Central American region, which is bogged down as a result of feuds, interferences, and complicities that block understanding and the strengthening of pluralistic democracy. We have not lost our optimism regarding the success of these efforts. We have received many manifestations of support, solidarity, and acknowledgment because of the noble Contadora objectives. However, the peace objective will not be achieved without the political will of the parties. Nevertheless, we are encouraged by the thought that without Contadora the situation could be worse and that perhaps we would be witnessing a most serious conflict, and probably a lengthy one, which no Latin American would like to see in the region. Our concern has also been expressed through economic and financial contributions so that sister nations may better face the serious economic and social problems they are experiencing. To a great extent, those problems are the reason for the present problems.

The aspirations for peace and the integration and development of Latin America are also our aspirations. They are in line with the premise that we, without coordinating our work and positions, will always be open to foreign disturbances. We effectively practice solidarity. We have not been and will not be indifferent to the fate of friendly countries in the region, especially Caribbean nations with which we hold broad, cordial relations based on technical cooperation and financial programs.

Latin American nations emerged from the ideal of integration, and experience has reflected this. This is not only a historical commitment but also a political and economic necessity. In any case, it should not be a rhetorical issue.

Realism should encourage us to take proper advantage of the potential of cooperation and complementariness that is inherent in integration processes, especially in view of foreign economic situations as critical as the one we are now experiencing. That same objectivity is leading us to review the mechanism of the Andean Pact. As we know, it has suffered a number of problems that have hindered the achievement of objectives throughout its 16-year history. Andean countries are committed to adjusting the Cartagena Consensus. This would undoubtedly bring about progress in terms of defining the degree of multilateralism that we want the process to have, the balance between market instruments, the planning of investments, and the advantages and responsibilities corresponding to less developed nations.

In addition, there is a need for the adoption of decisions having to do with the normalization of intrasubregional trade and similar trade to ensure security in the Andean market to certain sectors subjected to joint programs.

I am sure that we will successfully carry out this restructuring process, because we are acting with appropriate understanding of the nature of internal and external problems; in the end, there is no other option than to be flexible in the face of the important and pressing nature of the current situation.

We also actively participate in ALADI because we are convinced there is much fertile land still to be cultivated in the area of trade among 11 countries determined to give pragmatic meaning to the objectives of cooperation and integration in Latin America.

In this sense, the SELA is called to play an important role in forming and coordinating positions that will help further our common goal of increasing involvement in and strengthening joint actions to achieve common goals. I am convinced that all member states must extend needed help to the SELA to ensure that it will carry out its important mission.

I would like to again refer to an unavoidable topic that concerns all of us in view of its characteristics and scope: the crisis experienced by the world economy, considered the worst in the past 50 years. This crisis has done the most damage to vulnerable developing nations burdened by foreign debt and deterioration of foreign trade.

We stress the approach maintained by the Cartagena Consensus countries that the grave problem can only be solved through political decisions reached through dialogue and joint efforts at the highest level. At the same time, economic development processes and social progress in our countries will be speeded up. The collapse of the prices of certain basic products and the imposition of protectionist barriers by some industrial countries play a leading role in the complex framework of the crisis. These commercial policies of the more developed nations clash openly with the demands for the payment of the huge foreign debt of the exporting countries. These policies hamper the access by consumers to these countries' basic products.

We must be allowed to export under favorable conditions. Only in this way can we fully fulfill our obligations. The opposite is absurd and preposterous, to say the least, and unacceptable [words indistinct]. We have observed positive reactions in the communications by the FRG chancellor, the Japanese prime minister, and the French president -- whose countries that participated in the Bonn summit meeting -- when they answered the latter sent to the Bonn summit by the presidents of the Latin American countries that participated in the Cartagena Consensus.

These proposals could place us on the path to the necessary political dialogue that we seek. We hope the words are not again carried away on the wind. So far, the payments effected have entailed great sacrifices by the debtor countries because their ability to meet their obligations is heavily taxed.

This has resulted in a growing deterioration of the standard of living of the peoples of these countries. What these peoples seek and need is to reactivate their economies in order to properly meet their creditors' demands. Consequently, it is necessary to reiterate that political decisions must be patterned on the principle of joint responsibility. The creditor countries must admit that fulfilling their debt obligations must be accompanied by stimulating actions by creditors, making such fulfillment possible.

The impact on our economies of the international financial situation leads us to look at ourselves critically and thoughtfully and weigh the extent to which our economic systems are vulnerable and dependent. A new OPEC meeting starts today in Vienna when the oil market appears complicated for the member countries of this organization, which will be 25 years old in September. As a result of its solidarity action and various international events, OPEC has succeeded in these 25 years in structuring oil prices and influencing the market. Without harming the organization through a retrospective critical analysis, this success is unique and was achieved by developing countries in their struggle to obtain a fair price and proper handling of the raw materials that these countries provide to the industrial world.

The organization's difficulties are due to the developed countries' success in their ever more efficient utilization of hydrocarbons, the development of alternate energy sources, the entry of increasing volumes of non-OPEC crude oil into the oil market and, more recently, some member countries nonadherence to the decisions adopted by that organization regarding production and prices. Regarding this latter aspect, in June I addressed the sovereigns and heads of state of the other OPEC member countries and invited them to join ranks and actively support these decisions, whose aim is to achieve a desirable price stability in the oil market. The defense of OPEC is rooted in a well-reasoned conviction that only the unity and solidarity of its members will lead us to successfully overcome the current difficulties; it is also based on the fact that more than two-thirds of the proven world oil reserves are found in OPEC countries. As a result of this, it is only a matter of time before the organization regains the progressive, decisive position it once enjoyed in the international oil market. This soundly based fact explains the actions and campaigns implemented by certain industrialized nations to destroy OPEC.

The nation can be sure that the national government has a clear, objective view of the international oil situation and that we will cope with it with the devotion and responsibility that is in accordance with its importance. In this struggle to stabilize the oil market, we cannot fail to mention the timely, decisive, and close relationship we have maintained with Mexico because we are fully aware of the importance of coordinating the actions of the two countries regarding oil prices, volumes, and the market, particularly as related to heavy crude oil. In addition, Venezuela and Mexico are the most important sources for the oil supply to Central American and the Caribbean countries through the so-called San Jose Accord, which also constitutes a financing mechanism for energy and economic integration projects in these countries.

The international economic relations program the world is carrying out serves as an incentive to promote alternatives to try to reduce the dependency on foreign factors. Specific measures have been taken in this respect aimed at finding new paths to diversify and promote our exports by giving special attention to those that are not traditional. In the same manner, existing conditions have made it necessary to adopt formulas that will reactivate the economy. One of these formulas is the new regulation for foreign investment in Venezuela, which was recently approved, to promote foreign investment that will complement local capital. The new regulation also seeks to create more jobs, obtain a genuine transfer of technology, and prevent the exodus of capital without the use of local capital. The innovations approved will open broad horizons for the establishment of foreign capital in areas considered of priority interest, such as tourism, agriculture, the agricultural and livestock industry, and construction.

As a fundamental pillar of Venezuela's foreign policy, we are promoting friendship and dialogue with friendly countries, especially with those which share our problems and aspirations. The talks and consultations carried out have been valuable in learning more about our problems and accelerating the means to solve them.

Without trying to lessen the importance of other contacts regarding Venezuela's bilateral relations, I would like to mention the official visits of the presidents of Mexico and Algeria [words indistinct] with which we have special relations and which have waged and are waging common struggles with us on behalf of developing countries. The recovery of democratic freedom in Uruguay and Brazil, which have cost great sacrifices, have been gratifying advanced in reaffirming democracy on our continent. We are especially pleased over the restoration of diplomatic relations with Uruguay, a South American republic with which we have new and auspicious possibilities to increase our relations. The fruitful talks with President Belisario Betancur in Arauca have fulfilled a longstanding need, taking into consideration Colombia's special importance regarding Venezuela's international relations. I am certain that this meeting has increased the level of understanding between two bordering sister countries and will have positive results during our relations. Among the most important issues I discussed with President Betancur are those related to the territorial development policy, border demarcation, and the handling of hydrographic basins of common interest.

I would now like to discuss these issues in a general manner. Not too long ago, the Venezuelan population was small and our territory was huge and full of wealth, which we exploited in a somewhat irrational way. Our population has increased and continues to increase; the handling of our resources needs more careful attention. Our obligation for the future of Venezuela, for which we are working and which can be seen among the children and youths around us, is a more rational and orderly management of the country's territory.

Recently, much has been said about the development of the border region. It is natural for public opinion to be very sensitive regarding the fate of zones which, besides being the more distant part of the country, are in direct contact with other countries and whose state of relative underdevelopment could be more evident compared to the existing economic conditions in neighbor [word indistinct] on the other side of the border. However, we do not think it is possible or [word indistinct] to face those problems simply under the so-called border development. It would create development poles organically disconnected from the country's vital centers and establish, in a vast territory in the interior of Venezuela that could not have a [words indistinct] comparable level. We would only be increasing the socioeconomic dependency of these regions on neighbor states. Border development should be a harmonious, natural expression of our territory's organization, consolidation, and integration. The border zones and cooperation and integration between neighbor states cannot prosper and cannot be lasting and solid without a total, exact demarcation of the border between neighboring countries, and without the respect due its territorial integration. The lack of a proper demarcation of the border is a factor of confusion and disturbance that we must prevent and avoid.

With regard to this situation, I specifically want to discuss some aspects of Venezuela's position in this respect. First, we hope that Venezuela and Guyana, encouraged by a high spirit of justice, equity, and responsibility toward their future generations, will find a practical and satisfactory solution to the Venezuelan-Guyanese border problem and a definite demarcation of our respective territories. The other land borders have been established, but the remaining work to be carried out in establishing our exact border is considerable. The operations to identify our territorial borders should faithfully and precisely comply with the principles established in the legal instruments by which the borders will be marked. Any action carried out that violates the principles of demarcation causes a movable, imprecise, and unstable border whose demarcation would represent the irresponsibility of the operation, but by no means the assurance and intangibility of the law. We all know that respect for the law in matters of territorial demarcation is a fundamental legacy of the liberator.

Finally, when discussing borders, we must not forget the new territories that the evolution of the International Sea Law has added to our heritage. We cannot ignore the historical titles and the geopolitical factors with respect to Venezuela's maritime borders. We must remember that all of the frontal border demarcations in the Caribbean between Venezuela and its neighbor countries have been settled since 1978, and that only similar lateral demarcations are pending: to the west with Colombia, and to the east with the Lesser Antilles, with the exception of Martinique and Guadaloupe since Venezuela's exclusive economic zone with respect to these islands was defined to complete this demarcation process of the areas under our national sovereignty and/or jurisdiction both in the Caribbean and the Atlantic. However, these demarcations are only the first step in what must be done to meet the challenge of systematically and rationally using the sea and its fishing, mining, and related resources.

I will now refer to the topic of water resources which, although abundant, are also frail. Venezuela must preserve for the future the volume and quality of the country's indispensable sweet water to guarantee a sustained socioeconomic development and a healthy habitat for our population. Our water systems are complex and frail, and they can be altered by many human activities. We must define the overall and joint policies related to handling the basins of common interest that extend on both sides of the border. Therefore, on this subject I am pleased to mention that an agreement was reached with Colombia during my recent visit to that country, when I met with President Belisario Betancur in Arauca.

Today, Venezuelans feel particularly motivated to move ahead together to consolidate our homeland, to strengthen the joint actions in favor of the fruitful and creative dialogue made possible through democracy. We are aware of the fact that in the long run, we will be responsible for our destiny, based on our own efforts. Of course, we should note the implications in the international context in which we participate. In a convulsed world of growing interdependence we are eager to contribute not only to safeguard our own interests, but also to move toward a world of more promising horizons for all. This is the real meaning of cooperation and international solidarity. In this respect, on this promising date for Venezuela and for Latin America, we again express our hope that intelligence, good sense, and goodwill will prevail over sterile antagonisms, in order to channel the bursting energy and vast possibilities offered by science and technology in favor of praiseworthy endeavors. This is necessary, in view of the trascendental contemporary problems.

Venezuela is a privileged country with a proven pacifist inclination, molded under the protection and inspiration of liberator Simon Bolivar and of all the forefathers of our independence whom we honor today. This line of international conduct has enabled us to deploy an active participation in the concert of nations, where Venezuela's presence is valued and respected, and where we will resolutely continue in the joint struggle in order to achieve peace and progress for all peoples.

We struggle for a progressive and fair Venezuela, a country for all, in a world of solidarity and justice.

To our people, and all peoples, our wishes for good health on the occasion of our national day! Thank you. [applause]

EMBASSY IN MANAGUA GRANTS SANDINIST YOUTH ASYLUM

PA100330 Caracas Television Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 9 Jul 85

[Text] The Venezuelan Embassy in Managua has granted political asylum to Nicaraguan citizen Nelson Alexis Sequeira, a member of the 19 July Sandinist Youth Movement, who got by the embassy's security, presented his arguments, and was granted asylum. Venezuelan Foreign Minister Simon Alberto Consalvi explained the reasons for accepting the youth.

[Begin recording] [Consalvi] Undoubtedly, there are sufficient grounds for granting him asylum.

[Reporter] When can he leave the embassy?

[Consalvi] Sometimes it takes a long time for the procedures. It depends on the Managua government.

[Reporter] Although granting asylum is Venezuela's sovereign decision, was there any opposition by the Managua government?

[Consalvi] As far as we know, they did not oppose this decision. It is our prerogative to categorize this, and we have already done so.

[Reporter] When do you think the Managua government will grant him a safe-conduct pass?

[Consalvi] I cannot express an opinion on behalf of the Managua government. This depends on what they consider appropriate. In these cases, it is most intelligent and convenient to grant a safe-conduct pass as soon as possible. [end recording]

SECRETARY LABASTIDA ATTENDS VIENNA OPEC MEETING

Discusses Oil Marketing Practices

FL061858 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 0145 GMT 6 Jul 85

[By special correspondent Gabriel Pereyra]

[Text] Vienna, 5 Jul (NOTIMEX) -- Mexico will have to make its own decisions concerning oil prices and marketing in order to defend its national interests, Francisco Labastida Ochoa, Mexican secretary of energy, mines and parastatal industry, has indicated. After the 74th OPEC meeting's first day of work, Labastida Ochoa told NOTIMEX: Unless the market situation improves, we will make certain decisions to defend our country's interests. He admitted that at this point the decisions are being made by the 14 countries responsible for the present situation, but warned that unless they stop engaging in commercial practices harmful to the market, Mexico will act firmly as a sovereign country.

He added that Mexico's decisions have always been carefully analyzed and stabilizing. At the right moment prior to the Geneva meeting we announced our position. We have always done what we have said we would do. In this case, he went on, we have the moral authority to ask that an end be put to harmful commercial practices, because Mexico and two or three other countries alone cannot resolve the situation. If we tried to do this, this small group would be sacrificed while the other producers would come out the winners. That is an unequitable and unfair position that we cannot tolerate because it is harmful to our interests, Labastida Ochoa said.

Participating at the OPEC meeting as an observer, he read a letter from the Mexican president reiterating that Mexico is engaged in a constant search for stability in the international oil market and wants the currently difficult situation corrected through the elimination of discounts and other marketing practices that harm the market's orderly behavior. The Mexican secretary added that Mexico's contacts with OPEC seek to identify common interests among developing countries that export a basic raw material and to find effective formulas for defending these interests. He recalled Mexico's coordinated activities with other oil exporters within and outside OPEC and referred to PEMEX's commercial practices, intended to defend a stable and predictable market. Finally, Labastida Ochoa noted that Venezuela, Ecuador, and Mexico have established a mechanism for consultation and support in order to provide each other with technical assistance and cooperation in the training of human resources and to exchange information. In addition, he said, we will help create technology to help with the domestic production of capital goods.

Returns From Meeting

FL100140 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 0045 GMT 10 Jul 85

[Text] Mexico City, 9 Jul (NOTIMEX) -- According to Mexican Energy Secretary Francisco Labastida Ochoa, oil producers reached specific agreements to maintain the production volume and current price structure. Upon arriving in this capital after participating at the OPEC meeting in Vienna, he said that Venezuela, Kuwait, and Saudi Arabia had made big efforts to reach positive agreements.

Interviewed at the capital city's airport, he also stressed the decline in Saudi Arabia's petroleum production. At present it is producing less than 2 million barrels per day, as opposed to over more than 10 million barrels in previous years. He later explained that OPEC produces a total of less than [figure indistinct] barrels of crude oil per day, which is insufficient to meet world demand.

The Mexican official stressed that at the Vienna meeting, Mexico's stance on the oil crisis had been stated clearly, as national interest had been upheld by advocating that market movements be neither violent nor unbalanced.

COSTA RICA

PANAMA AGREES TO BE SITE FOR TALKS WITH NICARAGUA

PA091523 San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 0100 GNT 9 Jul 85

[Text] The Panamanian Government has agreed to be the site of a direct dialogue between Costa Rica and Nicaragua aimed at finding definitive and durable solutions for the border conflicts, as requested by Costa Rica. Costa Rican President Luis Alberto Monge had accepted Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega's proposal for Costa Rican and Nicaraguan delegations to begin talks on the border problems but suggested they be held in Panamanian territory.

Foreign Minister Carlos Jose Gutierrez confirmed this afternoon that the Panamanian foreign minister informed him that Panama has agreed to be the site for these talks.

The direct talks between Costa Rica and Nicaragua will depend on whether the Contadora Group agrees to act as a mediator, Foreign Minister Gutierrez said, adding that the participation of French delegates as proposed by Nicaragua must be accepted by the Contadora Group since this is a regional conflict in which France is not involved. Gutierrez said that he will be contacting the Contadora Group foreign minister to learn their reaction to the Sandinist proposal.

Gutierrez clarified that the direct dialogue between Costa Rican delegates and representatives of the Managua regime would not be to discuss the establishment of a demilitarized zone. He said: Costa Rica feels that not only its border with Nicaragua but the entire country is already demilitarized; therefore the establishment of a neutral zone will not be a topic of the talks.

Meanwhile, official sources said that Costa Rica believes that the maintenance of a demilitarized zone would entail high costs for the country, which it is not in a position to assume. In any event, if Nicaragua wants to establish a demilitarized zone within its territory, that is its decision, the sources concluded.

EDITORIAL SEES 'DANGER' OF U.S. INTERVENTION

PA090334 San Jose LIBERTAD REVOLUCIONARIA in Spanish 4 Jul 85 p 2

[Editorial: "Danger of Intervention Increases"]

[Text] The specter of a direct U.S. intervention in Central America has risen again in the past few days. The Yankee government has initiated a very dangerous policy of self-provocations.

The United States has been using the death of six Americans, including four military advisers, in El Salvador and the hijacking of a TWA plane in the Middle East as pretexts for military interventionist measures in these two areas. While the United States deploys a threatening fleet that even carries nuclear weapons off the coast of Lebanon, it delivers hundreds of million of dollars to the Salvadoran puppet government and the mercenary armies that attack Nicaragua.

Having a president who, in an unusual statement, says he bangs his head against the wall because of problems in international politics, makes the United States at this time an extremely dangerous country for small nations such as Lebanon and Nicaragua.

As soon as the fate of the advisers in El Salvador was announced and without anyone understanding why, Yankee propaganda managed to blame Nicaragua and carry out a campaign of new threats.

Although a direct intervention would be sheer lunacy, we must be alert. The constant provocations by the United States could lead to desperate measures at any time. We have already seen how in the midst of the aircraft hijacking crisis Secretary of Defense Mr Weinberger maddeningly proclaimed that this was a war situation. Many of the measures prior to an intervention in Nicaragua have already been taken. According to recent reports by the U.S. press, the forces are ready and the officers are convinced that success awaits them. They have landing strips and part of their troops in full gear in Honduras. The Honduran Army is ready to assist the interventionist forces. The role that the Costa Rican Government and territory will play in the aggression has also been considered. At least one military base is being built and weapons have been taken to several others.

Central American peoples must be alert. Intervention is a real threat that can materialize at any time. The U.S. demand that countries in this area have governments in agreement with the U.S. leaders' will clearly shows that they consider us subject to them and that our independence can only exist at the expense of a determined, firm struggle as is being waged by Cuba and Nicaragua.

EL SALVADOR

INTERVIEW WITH DEFENSE MINISTER VIDES CASANOVA

PA092215 San Salvador Radio Cadena YSKL in Spanish 1730 GMT 9 Jul 85

[Interview with Defense Minister General Carlos Eugenio Vides Casanova by unidentifed reporters following 9 July presentation of his annual report before the Legislative Assembly]

[Text] [YSKL reporter] The first question the defense minister answered was regarding the recent statements made by General [Adolfo Onecifero] Blandon in which he said El Salvador will take action against Nicaragua should a war between Honduras and Nicaragua break out.

[Begin recording] [Vides Casanova] I believe that what the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff meant to say was that all general staffs, throughout the world, make plans in case something happens. As is understandable, the Joint Chiefs of Staff have this alternative and others, which are only put into effect when a hypothesis becomes fact. We have plans should we face an aggression. We have plans to fight against an aggression by ourselves or with other countries. However, at this moment we have no intentions of implementing those plans unless one of those hypotheses becomes fact.

[Reporter] Would this mean that there is a pact with Honduras?

[Vides Casanova] We have no such pact with Honduras, and should the circumstances arise, it will be up to the president and the Legislative Assembly to decide what actions to take. However, we wish to assure you that the Salvadoran Armed Forces are bent on resolving their internal problems and is not thinking about taking an action against any country.

[Reporter] General, should a conflict arise between Honduras and Nicaragua what are the chances of El Salvador and Honduras defeating Nicaragua?

[Vides Casanova] I do not think in terms of chances; I am sure of what we have. If we were to think in terms of chances we would never find ourselves fighting a war. There would be no war right now. We are a peaceful people defending ourselves against an aggression, but rest assured, we have enough training to face any situation that could arise in the future.

[Reporter] Mr Minister, in your annual report you mentioned that there has been an increase in Army patrols and offensives. What can you tell us about this? What does the increase mean?

[Vides Casanova] It means that we have more units to work with. Since we have more units to work with, some of our men are guarding the important installations throughout the country, and there are more units to work permanently throughout the country. Because of this, our six brigades have carried out many more operations. At the Joint Chiefs of Staff level, larger operations have been launched. This means that we are acting more offensively, that we have more soldiers, that we have more mobility, and that we also wish to end the conflict as soon as possible.

[Reporter] Could you give us your views regarding Honduran incursions into El Salvador and what you expect from the president's trip to Honduras?

[Vides Casanova] I feel that the incursions have not been verified. The charges made by the two countries are solved through diplomatic channels. Up to now, all the problems we have had with Honduras at the border area have been solved in a friendly manner and through the diplomatic channels.

[Reporter] [Words indistinct] the recent actions such as the Zona Rosa massacre, the possibilities of dialogue, and (?detente)?

[Vides Casanova] It is quite obvious that as long as the guerrillas continue to increase terrorist activities, there will be fewer chances of a dialogue. All we can say is that we are aware of the fact that there is a threat against all Salvadorans and we, the military, will increase our measures to defend the country. We will improve the training of the public security corps, and you will see that despite the threats made by the subversives, we will be able to confront terrorism. The more violence they display, the fewer the chances will be for a dialogue on the part of those responsible.

[Reporter] Mr Minister, regarding the transporation stoppage announced by the FMLN, what is the Armed Forces' position?

[Vides Casanova] The Armed Forces' position has always been to offer protection on the roads. You are witnesses to the fact that at no time has the subversion been able to halt transporation on a highway unless it creates unrest by burning three or four vehicles and then the men responsible for a vehicle or the owners prefer not to use the roads to protect their property. However, whenever the rebels have lifted a blockade, the Armed Forces have immediately gone in to protect the road. The people then have more trust and begin using the road again.

[Reporter] What is the Salvadoran Armed Forces' stance regarding Nicaragua? How do the Salvadoran Armed Forces view the Sandinist regime?

[Vides Casanova] I believe that voicing an opinion regarding another country is a matter for the president. We have enough problems of our own and should not judge others. We must be very cautious. We must observe closely, and prepare; however, we the military are not the suitable ones to pass judgment on other countries. For that, we have an executive branch.

[Reporter] [Words indistinct] General Blandon and his statements.

Is the Armed Forces in a position to fight against Honduras and continue to fight the war being waged within the country?

[Vides Casanova] Gen Blandon did not say that.

[Reporter] Would you support Honduras?

[Vides Casanova] Yes, but you asked if we were in a position to fight against Honduras...

[Reporter] With Nicaragua?

[Vides Casanova] I think what the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff said was that each general staff has its own plans. You may have your camera loaded to take shots of many things you think will happen: but should nothing happen, your camera will still be loaded. The general staff has its plans; we implement those plans only if the events they were drafted for occur. Otherwise, these plans could be kept in a drawer for a lifetime.

[Reporter] [Question indistinct]

[Vides Casanova] I want to make it very clear that we now have nothing against Nicaragua. What you did was misinterpret statements made by the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff and exaggerate them just to have some news. I repeat: there is nothing going on at this moment. You can be sure we are prepared should anything occur.

[Reporter] [Words indistinct] conflict. Could the Honduran and Guatemalan Armies carry out actions against the rebels, against the Salvadoran guerrillas?

[Vides Casanova] Here in El Salvador? No. We have enough men; we can help them should they need and request help.

[Reporter] [Words indistinct] regarding the guerrillas statement that they can destroy our economy and increase urban terrorism?

[Vides Casanova] These have always beeen their intentions. They were not able to fulfill their 10 January offensive after they said that in 15 days they would control the country. Here we are, 6 years later. They said we would not be able to implement the National Commission for Reconstruction of Affected Areas plan in other deparments, not even San Vicente; but the plan has already been implemented in nine departments. I will send you the proof; I am going to show you that they will not be able to destroy the economy or control the country. Their opportunities are fewer each day, and the terrorism they practice shows their weakness. Whenever an insurrectional movement begins to practice terrorism, it is because they have become weaker. All they need are actions for publicity and to inflict fear so the people become afraid of participating in the various activities to reconstruct the economy. They can say what they want, but we are going to do our duty.

[Reporter] [Words indistinct] strongest blow dealt by the Armed Forces against the rebels this year?

[Vides Casanova] I feel the hardest blow against the guerrillas is the fact that the Armed Forces have supported the democratic process. It has gained domestic and international prestige and has earned us international support and domestic support, which is the most important factor.

[Reporter] Then it has been more of a political blow than a military one?

[Vides Casanova] It is all interrelated. When there is a guerrilla attack, the response of the people must come from all levels. There must be a political, social, economic, and military response; and here is where we come in. They never thought that the Armed Forces would respond with an action that includes every area of our society. They thought it would be only a military response, and this is why the subversion has failed.

[Reporter] General, they have said that within a year they will expand the war throughout the country and that they have undertaken a war to wear out the military. What can you say about this?

[Vides Casanova] They have always said that they control the country. I do not know how they can say they will expand it throughout the country if, for years, they have been saying they control the country. All I can tell you is we will adopt the necessary measures. We will fulfill our constitutional duty. We are going to face any threat they may launch. They are free to say what they please, but we are going to make our plans to counteract any plans they may have.

[Reporter] Mr Minister, what would Nicaragua have to do for the Salvadoran Armed Forces to mobilize on the side of Honduras?

[Vides Casanova] The actions are included in the hypothesis of the plan General Blandon spoke of. However, these are secret. [end recording]

INFANTRY COMMANDER DENIES BORDER EVACUATION

PA092315 San Salvador Radio Cadena Sonora in Spanish 1700 GMT 6 Jul 85

[Excerpts] Today a leftist attacked National Guard positions in Chinameca, San Miguel Department. The authorities reported one soldier was wounded during the attack, which began at 0530 hours and lasted 1 hour, and extended into surrounding neighborhoods of Chinameca, 111 km east of San Salvador. The guards who resisted the attack said the guerrillas attacked them with rifles and support weapons, but were unable to enter the town. An Air Force helicopter then arrived, and opened fire on the rebels, but the outcome is unknown.

Meanwhile, Colonel Sigifredo Ochoa Perez, commander of the 4th Infantry Brigade, reported the following on the military situation in Chalatenango Department:

[Began recording] [Ochoa] I believe the military situation is favorable to the Armed Forces. We have the situation under control in the department, where we are constantly patrolling the area. We have no problems there now. We control the highways. We have troops deployed throughout the department.

[Reporter] Is it true that the Salvadorans are being evacuated from the area bordering with Honduras, leaving the area free so the Honduran Army can intervene there against the Salvadoran rebels?

[Ochoa] That is completely false. I do not know who made up that story. I think the subversives make up these stories. We are defending our Constitution, we have to defend our territory. At no time have we evacuated the population. On the contrary, we are relocating the people to unpopulated areas such as (Marcapado and Zochalapa), so this is all a lie.

I do not know who started this rumor. I think it is the work of the subversives in order to confuse the public.

[Reporter] Colonel Ochoa, concerning the Central American situation: Do you think that the United States might intervene in Nicaragua?

[Ochoa] That is not (?my concern). That is something that is the opinion of the politicians, and personally I cannot give you any opinion on this. This is a very confidential issue of the Americans. It is a situation outside my area of responsibility, and therefore I cannot give you any opinion on this. [end recording]

HONDURAN BISHOP ON SALVADORAN REFUGEE SITUATION

PA092232 San Salvador Radio Cadena Sonora in Spanish 2230 GMT 5 Jul 85

[Report by Alberto Barrera]

[Excerpts] The bishop of Santa Rosa de Copan, Msgr Luis Alfonso Santos, held a press conference and discussed the situation of Salvadoran refugees and their continuous arrival in recent months as well as the presence of U.S. troops in Honduras in view of the Nicaraguan communist threat. The Honduran bishop is attending the Central American Bishops Council in San Salvador, which opened yesterday and concludes today. Bishop Santos was interviewed about the refugee situation and was asked about the statement by Colonel Abraham Garcia Turcios, a Honduran officer who heads the National Association of Refugees, that these camps were sanctuaries for guerrillas. Bishop Santos said:

[Begin recording] The Honduran Army has always held that opinion about the camps. I am not a policeman. Our work is humanitarian. Whether there are guerrillas or not in these camps, this is something for the military to investigage. I can neither confirm nor deny if these camps are sanctuaries for guerrillas. If Col Garcia Turcios says this, then he should be questioned, or he should be asked to prove it. [end recording]

Concerning the problems of the Salvadoran and Nicaraguan refugees in the Atlantic coastal area, the Honduran bishop said:

[Begin recording] [Santos] I have intervened briefly. I have spoken to the colonels and they have allowed them to remain there, with the exception of those who have been arrested. No one has been tortured in any way. Some were detained for questioning, as a preventive measure, and later released.

[Reporter] What is the stand of the Honduran Church concerning the U.S. presence in Honduras?

[Santos] Up to now, the bishops have not analyzed the issue or made any statement on the issue. However, the bishops' document dated last November referred to the arms race. I have the document with me, and I could lend it to you. It was a calm but courageous attitude of the bishops to bring up the arms race issue. Most of the Catholic population agrees with the U.S. presence, but another part says nothing. However, the Liberal Revolutionary Movement is against the presence of any non-Honduran army in national territory. [end recording]

As a Honduran citizen, the bishop of Santa Rosa de Copan said:

[Begin recording] Now, if the threat of Nicaraguan communism did not exist, then I would say those troops should not be there. However, this threat has to be considered. I would not say this justifies it, but really, it is the government that called on the Americans. I had nothing to do with that decision. [end recording]

AUXILIARY ARCHBISHOP ON CHURCH'S PEACE EFFORTS

PA100015 San Salvador Radio Cadena YSKL in Spanish 1800 GMT 6 Jul 85

[Interview with San Salvador Auxiliary Archbishop Msgr Gregorio Rosas Chavez by Mery Cisneros, at the close of the 2-day meeting of the Central American Bishops Council -- recorded]

[Excerpts] [Rosas Chavez] We have concluded our 2-day meeting. We are very pleased, because the six [as heard] Central American countries sent their delegates. It is something very difficult to achieve, but we had all the archbishops of Central America attend, except for the Honduran archbishop who sent a delegate.

Cardinal Obando y Bravo, in spite of his numerous duties in Nicaragua, attended. We were very happy to have him with us. We were then able to congratulate him officially.

[Cisneros] It was said that this meeting would reach agreements or discuss how you can help in resolving the Central American conflict.

[Rosas Chavez] Yes, it is almost a routine issue with us, to examine the situation of each country and the regional situation. In general, our impression is that the situation is difficult in the area and it is deteriorating. Therefore, the church has a tremendous task ahead. We have examined to see how we can contribute to easing the suffering, and above all to achieving the basic issue -- peace. We are realistic, and we realize this is a very complex problem, but this should not stop us from doing something.

[Cisneros] To conclude this interview, we would like to hear your opinion concerning the Contadora Group, which is seeking peace for Central America, but whose efforts have been severed by Nicaragua's adverse situation, according to international news reports. We would also like to hear your stand concerning the OAS investigating committee, and also on the people who have been evacuated from northern Morazan by the Army, the president, and the Legislative Assembly.

[Rosas Chavez] That is too many questions at once. We will try to comment a little on each issue. Concerning the Contadora Group, the church feels that every effort to seek a nonmilitary solution should be supported. We would like the Contadora Group to succeed. Naturally, it is a titanic effort, it is a giant effort, and everyone knows it requires a lot of patience and creativity. I hope this Group finds new formulas. Some would like to bury this Group, but I think we have to support it and encourage it, so it will find new solutions to benefit everyone, for the sake of the area.

Concerning the problem of the exodus in Morazan, we are trying to obtain objective reports. The political element always mixes in when this type of problem exists, and a person must know how to separate objective reports from others. The church seeks peace, based on truth, not on passion or vested interests. Undoubtedly, there is an exodus. We have reports to this effect. However, we still do not have enough reports to confirm the reasons for the exodus and give a moral judgment on the issue. We are following the problem closely.

RADIO VENCEREMOS ON RECENT SABOTAGE ACTIVITIES

PA092110 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador 0000 GMT 7 Jul 85

[Text] The FMLN carried out important sabotage activities on Saturday afternoon. In different parts of the central zone, FMLN sappers of the Modesto Ramirez Central Front carried out important sabotage against power lines in this central area of the country. These power outages affected San Salvador and large parts of central El Salvador. Now here is more information on sabotage of power lines. This information is from the Francisco Sanchez Southwestern Front. The report indicates that on 5 July, guerrilla units of the Julio Armando Climaco Detachment downed three high voltage power pylons in (Las Gorritas) Canton, San Jorge jurisdiction, San Miguel Department.

We continue with more activities to sabotage the war economy of Duarte's government. Sabotage is victory. On Friday, 5 July at 2345, urban commandos from the Commander Gonzalo Southern Group of Rafael Arce Zablah Brigade [BRAZ] downed a power pylon in Jiquilisco. Because of this sabotage, Jiquilisco, in Usulutan Department, had a power outage. In addition, our units distributed propaganda. Sabotage recovers from the Duartists what the bosses steal from the workers.

HONDURAS

NICARAGUAN AMBASSADOR RECEIVES WARNING

PA091333 Tegucigalpa Cadena Audio Video in Spanish 1235 GMT 9 Jul 85

[Text] Foreign Secretary Edgardo Paz Barnica yesterday warned Danilo Abud Vivas, Nicaraguan ambassador in Tegucigalpa, that he will have to leave the country if he continues making statements that are offensive to Honduras.

NICARAGUA

ORTEGA ON CONTADORA AGENDA, RAMIREZ TRIP

PA100220 Managua Radio Sandino Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 9 Jul 85

[Text] After visiting Nicaraguan Foreign Minister Miguel D'Escoto to show support for him, President Daniel Ortega told this radio station: Nicaragua hopes that the coming meeting of the Contadora Group's foreign ministers in Panama City will discuss the problem of Nicaragua's safety, since this organization's member countries are aware of the danger of U.S. invasion against Nicaragua. D'Escoto is currently on a fast for peace and against intervention at the Monsignor Lezcano Church.

[Begin recording] [Reporter] Commander Ortega, what does Nicaragua expect from the coming meeting of Contadora foreign ministers to be held in Panama?

[Ortega] We expect the Contadora Group meeting to discuss the problem of safety. As we have said, the Contadora Group member countries are aware of this situation. This will surely lead to communication with the United States, asking it to effectively support the Contadora Group's peace effort instead of hampering it by escalating its war against Nicaragua.

[Reporter] What is your opinion of Dr Sergio Ramirez' tour and the meetings he has held with other governments?

[Ortega] He visited Mexico and Brazil and is now in Argentina. We think he has generated positive responses that identify with Nicaragua's concern. [end recording]

In addition, Ortega denounced the possibility that the CIA mercenaries will step up their sabotage against economic and civil service targets to boycott commemoration of the sixth anniversary of the triumph of the revolution.

[Begin recording] Counterrevolutionaries have been conducting terrorist actions. We will not be surprised if they carry out terrorist actions such as those they conducted against the peoples in the coastal area. These people's means of transportation, the Bluefields Express, was destroyed, thus affecting all residents [words indistinct]. [end recording]

RAMIREZ DISCUSSES CONTADORA, U.S. INTERVENTION

PA100342 Managua Domestic Service in Spanish 0300 GMT 9 Jul 85

[Text] Buenos Aires -- Nicaragua wants a peaceful solution to the Central American crisis, but should in no way unarm itself, considering the danger of a U.S. invasion, Nicaraguan Vice President Sergio Ramirez said today. The U.S. Congress has just given President Ronald Reagan all the elements to prepare an invasion against our country at any given moment, Ramirez emphasized. He said Nicaragua has proposed the creation of demilitarized zones on its borders with Costa Rica and Honduras, under Latin American forces' control, in order to overcome the conflict and danger of aggression. The Nicaraguan vice president said, upon concluding a meeting with Argentine Vice President Victor Martinez, that his government supports Contadora Group's the efforts to find a peaceful solution in the region.

Later he said that the revolutionary government had made a gesture of goodwill toward the United States with the departure of approximately 100 Cuban advisers. In exchange, Nicaragua has received no positive gesture; instead, the danger of an invasion has increased. Nicaragua's acceptance of Argentine mediation to renew its talks with the United States was underscored today by Nicaraguan Vice President Sergio Ramirez Mercado. The Sandinist leader urged Argentina to step up its support for the Contadora Group's peace efforts, and said that the Central American conflict is showing extremely dangerous signs.

BORGE COMMEMORATES EL FORTIN ANNIVERSARY

PA090250 Managua Radio Sandino Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 8 Jul 85

[Text] It was reported in Leon that approximately 10,000 people gathered yesterday to commemorate the sixth anniversary of the seizure of El Fortin by the popular forces, which forced the genocidal National Guard commanded by General Gonzalo Evertz Vulcano, to flee from one of the largest National Guard forts.

Tomas Borge Martinez, commander of the revolution and interior minister, spoke and recalled the thousands of heroes who fell during the struggle for liberation. Borge referred to the charges by the United States that Nicaragua is a terrorist country. He said: With what moral authority can they call us this since they are the biggest terrorists in the world who murder peasants, children and the elderly, and destroy private property?

Leon is admired because of its traditions, culture, monuments, and bravery of our people who are lions in combat. A delegation of U.S. citizens, who are in solidarity with our revolution, were present at the ceremony. Borge saluted them in his speech.

BORGE ASSESSES WORK AT EL BLUFF PORT COMPLEX

PA060359 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1930 GMT 4 Jul 85

[Text] During yesterday's visit to Bluefields accompanied by Sandinist leaders and foreign diplomats accredited here, Commander Tomas Borge Martinez said that El Bluff's deep water port will compete with the Panama Canal, and that ships from all over the world will be able to use it. The El Bluff-Arlen Siu Port complex is named after the Chinese girl who fought to the end [not further identified]. At a cost of $80 million, the port was largely financed by CEMA. The port complex will be a major crossroads in Nicaragua enabling the country to obtain foreign currency and to export its products to Europe, Commander Borge said.

Regarding the autonomy bill, Borge said that hopefully it will be at a very advanced stage by October, so it can be submitted to the National Assembly. Borge said that the Pacific zone has the task of publicizing the autonomy bill so that it is understood.

Now, here is Interior Minister Commander Borge during yesterday's visit to El Bluff:

[Begin recording] The deep water port at El Bluff is undoubtedly a strategically important project for the nation, which I feel has not been sufficiently publicized in the country. Large investments have been made in this project, and a relatively high percentage of the work has already been completed. In fact, in order to promote this extremely important project, we, the commanders of the revolution, visited the port construction site and were able to observe the extraordinary efforts under way with machinery from Bulgaria and other countries. We observed the dredging of the port, which will be 12.5 meters deep once it is completed; the retaining walls, which are being built to prevent the Escondido River sediments from seeping into the construction site; and the basin, where ships will be able to move about once they enter the port.

The deep water port at El Bluff will have a tunnel that must be built at (El Mechu) Port, which we did not have the opportunity to visit. This will be a very complete project that will save Nicaragua a large amount of foreign currency. It will be kind of a dry canal that will not only represent a vast savings in foreign currency because we will not have to transit the Panama Canal and merchandise will arrive earlier, but will also represent revenue for Nicaragua in foreign currency because this kind of passageway is not only needed by Nicaragua but it could be used by other Latin American countries. [end recording]

DEFENSE MINISTRY CLAIMS 61 CONTRA CASUALTIES

PA100022 Managua Domestic Service in Spanish 0300 GMT 9 Jul 85

[Text] A total of 61 Somozists have been killed in 5 days of combat. The Defense Ministry reported today that 61 Somozists were killed during military operations on 2,3,5,6, and 7 July in various parts of the northern region. The first official report issued by the Defense Ministry states that 29 Somozist mercenaries of the Nicarao Regional Command were killed between 2-3 July in the Condega and Nueva Segovia jurisdiction. Two Sandinist People's Army [EPS] fighters died during those clashes.

Meanwhile, here is a report received from the Defense Ministry tonight: A total of 32 counterrevolutionaries were killed as a result of the latest actions carried out by the EPS on 5,6, and 7 July in various parts of the northern region.

In addition, 15 mercenaries were wounded and war materiel was recovered. On 5 July, EPS troops clashed with mercenaries at (Cano Patitan), 38 km east of Mulukuku, Zelaya Department. As a result, 14 counterrevolutionaries were killed, 15 wounded, and the following weapons recovered; 1 M-14 rifle, 1 FAL rifle, 2 G-3 rifles, 1 RPG-7 grenade, and a Claymore mine.

On 7 July, in another clash with the mercenaries in San Jeronimo, 18 km north of Quilali, Nueva Segovia Department, the contras sustained six casualties. There was another clash that same day in the (Sacagua) Hill sector, north of Quilali, which resulted in 12 enemies killed.

ARDE REPORTEDLY KILLS 18 CUBAN MERCENARIES

PA091335 San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 1220 GMT 9 Jul 85

[Text] Spokesmen of the Democratic Revolutionary Alliance, ARDE, have reported that on Friday, 5 July, the Juan Alberto Zelaya Zelaya Column headed by Commander Ganso attacked The Bluefields Express boat with 103 people on board in Rio Escondido, southern Zelaya. The report added that 70 percent of the passengers died, others managed to escape, and some were captured by ARDE.

The arrested Sandinists reported that 18 Cuban mercenaries who were on the ship died during the attack. The sources stressed that this is the beginning of actions against military targets in areas where ARDE forces operate. Clashes continue in Nueva Guinea and areas near Chontales, the report concluded.

CEDRENIC DENOUNCES PLOT TO KILL CARDINAL OBANDO

PA050112 San Jose LA REPUBLICA in Spanish 27 Jun 85 p 7

[Text] Yesterday, the Ecumenical Committee for the Defense of Religion and Worship in Nicaragua (Cedrenic) revealed that it has received information on plans to kidnap and murder Cardinal Miguel Obando y Bravo. The group pointed out that "the information was received from persons and religious organizations who refused to identify themselves for security reasons." Cedrenic noted that it has received reports from Managua on the possibility that internationalist forces at the service of the FSLN will make attempts against the life or physical integrity of the cardinal.

"The recent statements by Ortega and Borge that the previous disturbances upon the Cardinal's arrival were programmed by the U.S. Embassy in Managua sponsored by the CIA, the claims that the mediation of the church in the national reconciliation dialogue is impossible, the current ban on the transmission of the cardinal's homilies, and the threat to take over Radio Catolica are some of the aggravating circumstances unleashed by the FSLN against the Catholic Church since Cardinal Obando y Bravo held a mass in Miami attended by Nicaraguan democratic opposition leaders, including Dr Adolfo Calero and Commander Eden Pastora. With great responsibility and concern, Cedrenic wishes to inform the governments and peoples of the world and the human rights organizations about the attempts planned by the FSLN to kidnap and murder Cardinal Obando y Bravo. We want to put on record that if any attempt against the cardinal takes places, the FSLN will blame the Nicaraguan democratic opposition to misinform international public opinion."

CASTRO DISCUSSES AREA DEBT, RELATIONS WITH U.S.

FL082126 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1802 GMT 8 Jul 85

[Text] Commander in Chief Fidel Castro, first secretary of the Communist Party of Cuba, granted a lengthy interview to publisher Jeffrey Elliot and Congressman Mervyn Dymally, both U.S. citizens, with whom he discussed various economic, political, and historical issues. Castro reiterated that there are only two alternatives: either cancellation of the debt or political death for the democratic processes in Latin America. The commander in chief told the U.S. publisher and the U.S. congressman that since Reagan's arrival in power, relations between the United States and Cuba have considerably worsened and because of that, Cuba has stepped up its defensive capacity. Castro gave a folder containing the entire text of the interview to the delegates attending the Fourth Congress of the Federation of Latin American Journalists, FELAP.

ANPP MEETING DISCUSSES MINPES, OTHER REPORTS

FL100055 [Editorial Report] Havana Television Service in Spanish at 1752 GMT on 9 July begins airing a recorded transmission of the morning session of the second work day of the eighth regular meeting of the National Assembly of the People's Government [ANPP] from Havana's Palace of Conventions. As on the previous day, the event is presided over by Commander in Chief Fidel Castro and ANPP President Flavio Bravo.

After a wide shot of the auditorium where the event is being held, Castro, Bravo, and several other ANPP leaders are seen entering the auditorium while the deputies in attendance rise to their feet and greet them with applause. As on the previous day, once everyone has been seated, Bravo makes the opening statements after which a deputy reads a message from the delegates to Moscow's Youth Festival in which they ratify their decision to step up their struggle on behalf of mankind and refer to the unpayable foreign debt.

Bravo then announces that the Ministry of the Fishing Industry [Minpes] report is up for discussion. The ensuing debate, which lasts nearly 2 hours, includes questions from several deputies and answers mostly from "Comrade Cuervo," presumably Minpes Minister Jorge A. Fernandez Cuervo-Vinent, but also from Castro, who is participating actively in this discussion, frequently asking questions himself. The discussion centers on such aspects as the sector's production figures and prospects, methods currently employed, various marine species and their advantages over one another, safety procedures implemented to protect the sector's workers, pollution, fishing programs, and the Cuban people's fish consumption habits.

After the Minpes report is unanimously approved, ANPP Vice President Servero Aguirre reads a draft ANPP document expressing solidarity with USSR stances, scoring the arms race and U.S. imperialism, endorsing the Contadora Group, referring to the unpayable foreign debt, and urging unity to achieve a new international economic order. Deputy Jorge Risquet is later seen proposing various changes to the document and a commission is appointed to review it.

This is followed by a report on Granma Province's advances under the revolutionary government read by Pedro Garcia, president of the Granma Province Assembly. Upon his conclusion, opinions and recommendations are read on both this and other provincial reports. At a final shot is taken, Bravo announces a recess "until 1500."

The station ends its transmission of this program which was 3 hours and 13 minutes at 2105 GMT and goes off the air until 1800 local time.

Castro Participates in Discussion

FL092221 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1802 GMT 9 Jul 85

[Excerpt] After reading the Ministry of Fishing Industry report yesterday and listening to the corresponding opinions, the National Assembly discussed and approved the document this morning. Deputy Fidel Castro intervened at various times during the debate to learn, among other things, about the hygienic conditions and protection of those who work in the fishing sector. Castro also considered it of great importance to increase the sale of fish to the population due to its health benefits, since it helps reduce blood cholesterol and the risk of coronary problems. In relation to the new species being introduced into the country, Deputy Castro analyzed the case of catfish because of its high food yield and warned against price problems in the new fishing industries to avoid state subsidies.

Granma Province Presents Report

FL092253 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1821 GMT 9 Jul 85

[Excerpt] The living conditions of the people of Granma, yesterday exploited and deceived, today respected and understood by the revolutionary government, were discussed in the Granma Province report submitted to the National Assembly of the People's Government [ANPP], which was unanimously approved. The significant achievements in the economic, political, and social developments of that territory were presented in a tight summary that showed how beneficial the creation of a people's government has been.

Outstanding in the report is the fact that the province now has 7 times more doctors, 5 times more dentists, and 44 times more nurses than in 1955. The practical application of preventive medicine and the many hygienic campaigns developed for the treatment and conservation of health have eradicated diseases in Granma that formerly constituted true scourges among children.

The just aspiration of Granma's people for the right to an education has become a reality under the revolution, said that province's report to the ANPP. The territory was the scene of heroic liberating actions.

The advance of the province's economy is an expression of the revolution's work. The sectors with the highest growth are: communications, transportation, construction, and industry.

GOVERNMENT 'UNDERSTANDS' GONZALEZ' CANCELLATION

PA091606 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1540 GMT 9 Jul 85

[Text] Havana, 9 Jul (EFE) -- The Cuban Government has said it understands why Spanish Prime Minister Felipe Gonzalez today had to cancel his trip to Cuba, Ecuador, and Peru. "We were ready for this visit, and we think that it would have been a good occasion to show him our hospitality and to talk about the incentive which bilateral relations represent," authorized sources noted. "But at the same time, we understand that there are internal reasons which prevent this trip, and we hope that there will be another occasion for it," they added.

The Spanish prime minister was scheduled to arrive in Havana on 19 July and stay on the island for 4 days. Bilateral matters, Central America, Latin America, and the foreign debt were some of the topics included on the agenda.

CASTRO ADDRESSES GRADUATING PRIMARY TEACHERS

FL050020 [Editorial Report] Havana Television Service in Spanish at 2258 GMT begins live coverage of the graduation ceremony from Havana's Karl Marx Theater of primary school teachers at which Cuban President Fidel Castro is the announced main speaker.

The camera pans the audience, which is heard chanting what the announcer calls revolutionary slogans.

At 2317 GMT, the curtain opens and Fidel is seen standing behind a table on a stage next to Central Committee member Jose Ramon Fernandez Alvarez, minister of education, and Politburo member Jorge Risquet Valdez, among others. The Cuban national anthem is played while the camera shows the Cuban flag.

At 2318 GMT, a student calls the roll of martyrs.

At 2319 GMT, staff announcer Manolo Ortega reports that Castro will hand some students their diplomas. Students begin receiving them, and Fidel shakes hands with male students and kisses female students on the cheek and embraces them.

At 2331 GMT, a student reads the graduates' oath, and another student presents a class album to the Cuban president.

At 2338 GMT, Castro is introduced and the students en masse chant slogans. At 2340 GMT, Fidel Castro begins speaking.

Text of Address

FL050050 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 2340 GMT 4 Jul 85

[Speech by President Fidel Castro at the commencement exercises for the 1985 class from teacher training schools, held at Havana city's Karl Marx theater -- live]

[Text] Comrades who have graduated from teacher training institutes of higher education: Today is a grand day for Cuban education, a day of glory and victory with the largest graduating class ever to take place in our country of students from teacher training institutes of higher education, a total of 11,300. Today, we can say without exaggeration that a new revolutionary era has begun in education with the graduation, for the first time in our history, of 2,700 students with a bachelor's degree in primary education. [applause]

Many things could be said on a day like today. It's impossible, of course to say them all, but at least it occurs to me to ask myself a little about the first years of the revolution, to recall where we came from, how we began, what we had then, and to point out the more characteristic aspects, features. I would say, for example, that we had 22.3 percent illiteracy between the ages of 10 and 49, if the then-existing figures and statistics could be called reliable. Who was then considered illiterate and who was not illiterate?

It can be said, for example, that only 56.4 percent of the children between the ages of 6 and 12 were attending school. With that 56.4 percent, knowing that many were dropping out from first, second, and third grades, the logical assumption is that the number of illiterates would increase in the future. It is not known how many attended school between the ages of 13 and 16, because there were no statistics, no one was concerned with that record. For what? If only half of those between 6 and 12 attended school, how many could have reached middle school?

However, a good example is the registration structure of those days. There is the data -- 89.9 percent of the students attended primary education. In middle and higher-level education, there were only 10.1 percent. Special education for children with physical or mental problems did not exist. The child care centers did not exist. Pre-school education barely existed.

It is said that there were approximately 24,000 teachers working. It is presumed that many or part of them did not have degrees. Statistical data reflects that, prior to the revolution, around 29,000 primary education teachers had graduated. It is known that there were some 10,000 unemployed teachers when the revolution triumphed. A teacher-training faculty existed at the university with few students, I believe. There were 6 schools for primary schoolteachers in our country.

Scholarship programs did not exist. Perhaps if we counted all students boarding in private schools, we might call privileged schools, they would total about 2,000 students. There were also the charity organizations. You remember those. That is where they took children who had no parents.

At one point there were civic-military schools, later known by other names. They had several hundred students, perhaps 1,000 or 2,000 students. There were two or three of those schools. Many of the institutions we have today did not exist then. No one even imagined vocational or technological schools. I think there were around twenty schools, although I think this figure is too high. No, no, I think there were fewer schools. They had only several hundred or perhaps several thousand students in arts and trades schools. There were three universities -- the one in Havana, the one in Las Villas and, for political reasons, they built another one in Holguin, which I think was annulled in the end. Oh, there was another one in Santiago de Cuba. University students totaled 15,000, but not at the time of the triumph of the revolution, because the universities were closed then. There were very few students in the technical careers.

These are just some general aspects of the educational situation that we found. The budget totaled 84 million pesos: 12 pesos per capital in the area of education, but this money was not received. You know that almost all the money destined for education was stolen. There were many inspectors, sinecures, the K clause. Many of you may not have heard about any of this. Perhaps you have had the chance to read about this in a book, about a clause by which thousands of sinecures helped the political clientele. These people did nothing. There were inspectors of all kinds who inspected nothing. I think there were 80 drawing teachers in Havana city or Havana Province and there were 19 inspectors. [laughter] I think there were about 256 physical education teachers, perhaps 250, and there were 56 inspectors. You can see how this operated. The people's schooling levels were minimal because it is not enough to consider just the literacy rate but also the people's average educational level.

There were no Pioneer organizations, scientific-technical organizations, Pioneers palaces, or Explorers' centers, yet these are also educational institutions. We must not forget this, because children do not learn or get an education in school alone.

It is essential to remember the long road traveled all through these years, during which we have made a big effort, even correcting erroneous ideas along the way and bringing in new ones, creating new institutions. There have been so many that they constitute a long list, ranging from the universities and pre-university institutions in the countryside, the technological institutes, schools for physical education teachers, military vocational schools, art schools, schools for teachers in study centers that later became part of the pedagogical school system, and the teachers' schools. How can we forget these, the new one built. We must also remember the situation created when it was decided that all the children should have teachers and teachers had to be sent to the mountains and the rural areas.

Many of the graduated teachers had not been trained to feel they had to render their services wherever needed. It was necessary to call on volunteer teachers who would go to the mountains; we had to ask high school students to go teach, amny times without even having attending some short preparatory course. We must remember how we began the struggle against illiteracy, mobilizing 100,000 students to eradicate illiteracy in 1 year. Cuba was the first country to perfrom that feat. After the Cuban experience, other countries have made similar efforts. Some of them have taken up more time, but other revolutionary countries have also made impressive efforts. Only a revolutionary country makes an effort of that kind. We know that Nicaragua also made a big effort and conducted an educational campaign. We know that the Ethiopians, who had over 80 percent illiteracy rate, have taught many million people to read and write over the past 10 years and I think that in all these new efforts, the epic enterprise carried out by our revolution in 1961 served as the model, as the example. It was an experience. It was very important to see that although a revolution may not have money, if it has the people, it can still solve its problems. Our revolution mobilized our youth with enthusiasm and took them to the most remote mountain areas.

It is a great lesson, especially in present times of crisis when many Latin American countries do not have money. They are able to do things that stir up people's and the youth's enthusiasm, they can undertake tasks that would cost hundreds of millions of dollars by only having a uniform and some notebooks. I am sure that in any other place where that would be done, the peasant families who receive those youths would support them, give them food and shelter. That can be done, not only in the field of education but also in the field of health if medical students are mobilized... there are many possibilities of that kind that would not cost money. We spent on uniforms, on those lamps they used to teach how to read, some educational material, and their transportation fare.

After the literacy campaign came the scholarship program. The revolution created 100,000 scholarships to serve as an incentive, a reward -- and it had not been a campaign promise -- but it was created to stimulate and reward 100,000 students that had participated in the literacy campaign. Scholarships were also given to tens of thousands of peasant girls who came to complement their elementary knowledge, they learned to do may practical things, and during many years the program of peasants who can from the mountains -- I do not know how may particpated -- but they where many over 50,000 near 100,000 the amount escapes my memory now.

The effort of creating the higher education institutes, schools for teachers, which we first began to open in the mountains considering the premise that, as I have said in other occasions, that only by going through physical hardships can the soul be prepared to encounter difficult tasks, and later we decided to open more in every province and city, understanding that the youth's training and the development of his mind enables him to undertake any task. So, our teacher training schools graduates were able not only to go to our country sites and our mountains -- many were originally from those places -- but dared to go and work beyond the boundaries of our country and go to distant places such as Africa; Angola, Ethipia, and further yet to Asia, to teach, as evidence of what training and education of the mind can do. If during earlier years it was hard to find a teacher to go to our country's mountains and country sites, one day when our Nicaraguan brothers asked us for teachers and we requested volunteer teachers to go to Nicaragua, 29,000 volunteered. When some of them were victims of the atrocities of the dirty war imposed on Nicaragua by imperialism, and some of them were murdered -- those names that have been remembered during today's ceremony -- then 100,000 teachers volunteered to teach in Nicaragua. [applause]

I believe this shows the kind of conscience our faculty has at every level. Because right now there are many graduates of the teacher training institutes' of higher edcation regular course who went through 2 years of internationalist missions as teachers in Angola. [applause]

We developed primary education teacher's training schools, now called pedagogic schools, in every province of the country. We built hundreds of middle level schools because that huge group of students who began primary schools continued studying, did not drop out. I remember that during the first year after the triumph of the revolution over 13,000 children enrolled in primary schools as new students, and that group grew up. You know this coincided with the population explosion of the first few years of the revolution. The revolution brought hope, euphoria, and not without reason. It appeared as though those young couples guessed, were sure that their children would not be without nurseries, preschools, primary, secondary, pre-university schools, and universities. It seemed they knew their children would not do without medical services, jobs. Who was not able to send their children to school because of lack of teachers or schools? But great efforts had to be made during those first years to form many primary, secondary, pre-university scho technological schools, universities.

It required not only the strengths of physical construction, but also enormous human strength and, among others, how to form or arrange for sufficient middle-level professors in the 1970's. How -- In those years 70 percent of the primary education teachers still did not have degrees. From where would you get teachers? Then the call from the homeland, the call of the revolution, and the response of our youth made the other miracle possible, which was to arrange for hundreds, thousands of teachers to respond with that enormous mass that entered middle education.

What about those children who graduated from sixth grade without having attended middle school or professional school? At that time sixth grade students still entered primary education teacher training schools. They studied 5 years to be able, with a degree and not much experience, to begin their classes. We struggled then with piles of problems -- this percent, the struggle for retaining children in school, the struggle against underdevelopment of education. When we had finally made schools for a high percentage of children who were in second grade, they should have been in fourth grade. Those in fourth grade should have been in sixth grade.

Then we have the struggle for promotion with quality, that long battle that has lightened during all these years by virtue of which development of education has greatly improved. The children are now in their proper grades, enormous struggle in which the education minister took the brilliant action of giving the teachers degrees.

If in the 1970's we had 70 percent without a degree, or more than 70 percent, in a period not longer than 10 years (?we have) reached the goal that all primary education teachers have degrees. Because contingents of new teachers graduated or because many of those students, men and women of the people who offered themselves as teachers and continued receiving their courses systematically, they preseverd until graduating as teachers, and we are able to say one day, some years ago, that all primary education teachers had degrees.

The efforts in this area can be appreciated in teacher-training institutes of higher education, in the number of institutions, in the number of students, in the number of graduates from those institutions.

Today we have taken a considerable jump; I mean, today, in the double sense of the word, compared to 1979 and the indexes. How different the indexes are, how clear are the results. We had about 21.3 percent illiteracy between the ages of 10 and 40. That index is now 1.9 percent. In the earlier ages, 20, 25, and 30, the rate is below 1 percent making the rate higher for those 40, 45 years of age who are considered illiterate by different criteria. Previously those who could sign their names were considered literate -- they knew how to sign their names. Simply knowing how to sign one's name, no -- it is considered illiteracy -- an exact index of 1.9 between those ages. What a difference!

I did not mention among the things that did not exist in this country, the peasant workers' education. How many hundreads of thousands -- many hundreds of thousands, it surely exceeds a million -- graduated in education, through peasant-workers' education, which was the continuation of the education campaign? The middle levels of education rose extraordinarily.

Today, I can ask a question: Is there any unemployed teacher in this country? Have any of you known that class of person that is called an "unemployed teacher"? [audience responds: "No!"] And how many have we graduated? How many teachers and professors? One day I was given the figure. It was more than 280,000 between teachers and professors. But around 120,000 primary education teachers have graduated.

Through the Institute of Educational Perfection 86,000 secondary education teachers graduated. Through the teacher training institutes of higher education 80,000 teachers graduated. That is a large figure, around 286,000. I don't know. The physical education and sports teachers are not included in that figure; 18,000 of them graduated these past few years. Of inspectors, I don't know how many have graduated. That category does not -- well, enough now. [laughter] If we add all this, it should pass the 300,000 figure.

Naturally, some figures may be repeated. Some may have graduated once, from a pedogogical detachment after completing the ninth grade. They would graduate after 4 or 5 years of study and then would graduate again, this time with their bachelor's degree. Some figures may be repeated. We are talking here about graduations and some 300,000 citizens of this country have graduated as teachers and professors. The teacher drainage was possible because teachers were, are, and will continue to be highly appreciated in our country. Professors were lured away, as everyone requested them -- the state, the party, the people's governments, the enterprises -- they were seized. Howe many did they take away? However, we withstood the drainage. It hurt, but not as much, because we have trained enough of those who have clear, precise, and total vocation. Then of course, among the latter group I must include those whom, out of discipline -- because either the party or the mass organizations called on them -- felt their vocation was teaching, were the ones who remained.

At present we have about 256,000 teachers and professors in the Education Ministry, and I understand this also includes professors of higher education. Today we have about 84,500 primary school teachers and we have even more middle-level professors, about 97,300 of them. This is noteworthy. I am not including here the professors charged with training teachers, of which we have 7,500. Nor does this figure include either the technical-professional training area, where we have about 25,000, or the special training area, where we have about 11,500. In the universities we have almost 18,000 professors. The number of students in the centers of higher education has grown from 15,000 before the revolution to 241,000 at present. Of these, more than one third of the higher level students belong to this sphere, the educational sphere. What a tremendous force, what prospects!

Now almost 100 percent of the children have schooling, but if a child has no schooling it is because of some special reason: Either he is in a hospital or he has some particular problem. It is not because he lacks a teacher or a school, as there are schools even in the most remote mountain areas. We know about a teacher whose salary is paid by the state who lives in a remote rural area and teaches her five children. She is her own children's teacher. Logically, in the rural areas there are times when a teacher has to teach only 7, 8, 10, or 5 students. It is not like in the cities, where he may have 15, 20, or 25 students. However, there is no lack of teachers in remote areas. There has never been a lack of teachers because some estimate was made that it is not profitable to have a teacher for five students and that, therefore, those children should remain illiterate. The revolution, our revolution, our socialist revolution basically seeks to serve people, human beings.

It does not skimp or take everthing into account trying to reduce budgets. No, all these difficulties were faced, as families still live in remote places and isolated homes in rural areas, but there has always been a response and there has always been a teacher.

What is the situation now? Almost 100 percent of the children between 6 and 12 years of age have schooling, as do 87 percent of those between 13 and 16 years of age, and over 93 percent of those between the ages of 6 and 16. If there is any student between the ages of 13 and 16 who has had no schooling, it is not due to a lack of schools or opportunities, but because of irresponsibility on the part of his family or due to some other social problem: Sometimes premature marriages and such factors have an effect on the percentage of children, youths, or adolescents, however you may want to call them, between the ages of 13 and 16, who have schooling. But it is not due to a lack of professors or educational institutions.

Today in the universities alone we have 51,000 students with scholarships. There are almsot 600,000 in the middle level education area, of which amost 400,000 have scholarships. This gives any young person or adolescent who lives in a rural area, or remote or isolated place, or who even living within a city would have to travel very long distances, or whose family stiuation makes it necessary to help him with a scholarship the chance to acquire a free education and receive all facilities -- books, food, clothing, and money for recreation, sports, and transportation, everything.

There are 444,000 semi-boarding students. In other words, there are over 1 million boarding and semi-boarding students. Compre this figure with the one I mentioned earlier and see how different the enrollment composition is.

Before, out of the 89.1 percent of the primary school-aged children who were expected to attend school, only 56.4 percent actually attended school. Now, almost 100 percent, practically all children who can go to school, attend.

However, the enrollment of primary schoolchildren represents only 45.1 percent of the total amount of children who attend school in the country.

Middle schoolchildren and high school students compose 54.9 percent of the school population. See what a difference? It is possible that it may increase a little, and then it may go down. Because of population fluctuations, the number of births have an impact. As birth rate decreases, there will be a time when there are more middle schoolchildren than in primary school. Later, there may be more children in primary school than in middle school but when the birth rates are balanced we will be more or less in the middle of the enrollment structure.

Today, one out of seven children between the ages of 1 and 5 attends day care centers because parents work or relatives need them to attend these centers. Today, about 120,000 students attend preschool. Approximately 85 percent of the students of that age are already in preschool. Today, we already have an enrollment of 44,500 children in special schools. If we used to say that there are 11,500 special education teachers, that means that for every four children needing that kind of education, there is a teacher.

Today, hundreds of thousands of youths attend middle-high studies at pedagogic schools, pre-university schools, at technical and professional education centers... There are 27,000 students in teacher training schools or pedagogic schools. We have 20 pedagogic schools in the entire country and an enrollment of 27,000 students.

We have 12 higher level education institutes and over 70 CEDE's [expansion unknown]. In September, the higher level pedagogic institutes will have 86 CEDE's, in small towns, remote areas. Where there are many teachers, there are higher level pedagogic institutes. Teachers go there to teach, teachers also attend to continue their higher education.

Otherwise, how would such a huge group as this one be graduating and even a greater group will graduate with a bachelor degree in primary school education.

During the next 16 years 80,000 primary schoolteachers and 60,000 teachers of middle level school will graduate. We are not satisfied with the ones we have. We will continue to graduate more. We need them. We need them because we have to replace those who retire, and not so much because of retirement because our group of teachers is very young. [laughter] We have to replace the ones that are taken from us, we have to complement education, for example we need more teachers for special schools, and we need to build up a reserve to allow teachers to study. Thanks to the small reserve we have we can witness miracles like this one because we have demand for teachers from friendly and brother countries. We have to be in condition to respond with quantities and quality to those demands. We have to continue improving, we need to continue studying.

I can point out more improvements, and of course I have not mentioned all of them.

During the school term that has just concluded -- there were 5,000 registered in 1959, some 7,000 in 1965 -- the number of registered students increased progressively and rapidly to 92,000 in the 1984-85 school term, and will increase to 105,000 in next school term. By September, the number of registered students will be 105,000.

This is possible due to another gigantic and invisible effort but palpable in its results of improving the educational system, improvement of curriculum, programs, and school materials. All this added to the many and on-going superior courses in which those 256,000 professors and teachers participate -- improvement which we could call on-going, constant at the Improvement Institute, at the Pedagogic Institutes of Higher Education, at conferences, at seminars, at courses of education, an entire system. The institutes of higher education have improvement courses. Four of the institutes of higher education have centers for improving professors of those institutes themselves.

Nothing is missing in the system. No one can miss the possibility of improving and studying. If before the revolution, in fact a few years after the triumph, the idea that a primary education teacher could undertake studies of higher education did not even exist. During the struggle, this battle, this effort, the idea emerged. It is always necessary that the idea emerge first, and the idea emerges when there is a need, especially when there is a will to tackle the need.

We could have said that all primary education teachers had been certified, that they could continue as such for the rest of their lives. It is magnificent to know that all children have schools, and all children have teachers, and all teachers have certificates. However, that did not satisfy us, that did not satisfy the permanent demand of the revolution for progress, the permanent need of a society that wants to advance. We wanted still more quality.

One day after 1970 the idea emerged. Do not believe that it was immediately successful. The idea had to overcome great opposition, difficulties. There were no visible means to set it in motion, how to carry it out, until the formula and solution were found and the first primary education teachers registered in the primary education faculty. [applause]

Many things had to be done. Tens of thousands of teachers graduated from sixth grade. Later we had sufficient numbers of students to register them in ninth grade. On day it became necessary to certify those having no titles, another day it became necessary to raise to the same level those who had registered from sixth grade.

When this program of bachelor of primary education began, it was necessary to put many through a preparatory course who had not registered from ninth grade. The preparatory course was created. It is not a case of those who registered from ninth grade and later studied 4 more years, that one had a higher level of education than a graduate from high school, had more experience in the field of education and was prepared for higher education. However, many obstacles had to be overcome.

In the future it will be easier when there will be new groups of teachers graduating from ninth grade. The means for training those professors was created, just as the means for improving the training of those who had registered in teacher training institutes from 9th grade and 10th grade, not 12th grade.

The first from the pedagogic detachment registered from 10th grade. It is also necessary to raise them to the same level. To study 2 more years after that graduation was a burden. Add them up and you will see all the effort.

Now we are advancing faster and the idea of making bachelors the primary education teachers will advance faster, because the idea is gaining prestige and strength to the degree that it becomes a reality.

It is really a reward for perservering, hoping, and trusting in the future that this idea, which appeared one day and made its own way step by step with much difficulty, has today crystallized to this wonderful end. Our revolution and our country can say the first 2,700 teachers graduated as bachelors in primary education today. [applause]

What does this mean and why do we talk about a new revolutionary era in education? There was a time when nither schools nor teachers existed. Many teachers prior to the revolution did not have a degree. Today, we begin down a road where this effort has paid off. First of all we graduate them. Then we send these youngsters from the sixth grade to the teachers schools. Later, we graduate them from the ninth grade, and even later we promote them again and again. Our teachers enter teachers school graduating from the ninth grade, and they study for 4 years.

In this country, where not so long ago those things happened, 2,000 bachelors in primary education will in the future begin to teach classes in primary school, in first grade, second grade, third, fourth, fifth, and sixth. I know that some will not go directly to school. Unfortunately, not all can go immediately. Surely some of them will be busy at their work, and the first have already begun to teach classes. This is the triumph of an idea.

If we now have what did not exist 15 years ago or what barely began to exist as an idea, how can we doubt that during the next 15 years the great majority, if not all, of our primary schoolteachers will have bachelors in primary education? [applause] What a great step forward!

I ask: Has any other country jumped this high? I don't remember any other country that marches forward at the pace that we do. I repeat, the idea gathers strength. Do you know something? This idea showed up the year you entered teachers' school. This idea persisted. Then came a year when fewer of you entered school, but that idea persisted despite the difficulties.

Today this movement is a giant. In the schools, 24,000 teachers have enrolled already. Do you know how many will enroll next year? About 16,000 primary education teachers will enroll in higher pedagogical institutes to begin their studies toward a bachelor's degree in primary education. Sixteen thousand! How many will graduate in 6 years on a date like this?

There is no theater large enough to hold them. There is no theater. [laughter] If only two out of every three finish, we will need two theaters for them. If we add the students of the detachment plus the teachers that graduate from the middle higher level, we will have to hold the ceremony in the stadium [laughter] or a graduation in a big park standing up if there are not enough chairs for everyone.

These are the prospects, but this enrollment shows the value of the idea, the strength of the idea. We have mentioned some characteristics of the past and some facts of the present. Nevertheless, can we say that everything is resolved, that everything is wonderful, that we are satisfied at last? No one will ever be satisfied in this country and much less the men and women involved in the education sector. They will never be satisfied. [applause]

Let me give you an example of the relativity of the advances. We have already achieved 100 percent of the primary schoolteachers with degrees. We have already achieved almost 100 percent of the secondary education professors with degrees because many of the detachment had graduated and many primary schoolteachers had also become secondary school professors. Almost 100 percent already have degrees. Of course, they have degrees and are teaching. However, we have taken a step backward. How have we taken a step backward? How is it possible that with so much effort we have taken a step backward? Yes, we have taken a step backward. Why? Because the rules of the game have changed. There is now talk of duly-certified degrees [titulo idoneo]. In other words, the eternal dissatisfaction emerges and although they have degrees, they need more degrees. [laughter] As a result, in basic secondary education, only 36.5 percent have the duly-certified degrees. This is a new term, a new concept that corresponds to the new age, let us say, the new revolutionary era in education. We now want that little companero who teaches school and who entered from the tenth grade and who did not enter from the pre-university level in the pedagogic institute to have a bachelor's degree in middle education. Therefore, let us graduate more and study more in order to reach 100 percent. It is greater at the pre-university level, almost 74 percent already have duly-certified degrees. In technical and professional education, approximately 70 percent have them. In special education, approximately 86 percent have them. This implies an effort. The need to advance in quality involves new efforts to again reach 100 percent. But I warn you that in view of the relativity of all the successes and advances, it is clear that in 10 years or in 12 years, I don't know, there will be talk about how in primary education just a certain percentage of those who have bachelor's degree in primary education have duly-certified degrees. [laughter, applause]

It will emerge as a necessity of life. It is demanded by progress. If you ask what will come afterward, I will say I don't know. However, I am sure that new things will emerge, and perhaps you will seek a doctorate in pedagogic sciences. [laughter, prolonged applause] There will always be something new as long as there is the spirit that is essential in every revolution and human society: that of eternal dissatisfaction. Thanks to eternal dissatisfaciton, we have all been evolving. At one time, it was the dissatisfaction of nature that did not like us to be a specific shape. Life evolved. Human forms began to develop and we have become what we are. Of course, we are far from being perfect. However, since nature cannot change us very much, we have no alternative but to change ourselves. [laughter] If we cannot change ourselves very much on the outside by becoming a little heavier or a little thinner [laughter], we can change ourselves on the inside -- in the mind and heart. We must continue to change ourselves because when the conscience emerged from primitive man to now, what we call human progress was begun. It is so long, so slow, so full of horrible stories, the appropriation of natural resources, the means of production, slavery, thousands of years of slavery and exploitation. After slavery came feudalism and then came capitalism. A large part of humankind must still liberate itself from capitalism. Therefore, you can see that man still needs to change himself and to stop being pro-slavery, a thief, and an exploiter. He must stop being a thief, pro-slavery, an exploiter, a plunderer, and all of those things. [applause]

Human society must progress. It must continue to change. It must continue to better itself. In countries like ours we have had the privilege of taking a great leap forward in history. We have to be less conformist than anyone else. Therefore, we not only help ourselves with our effort, but with our example and our experience we can also help others.

Next year there will be a well-attended international pedagogic congress in which these educational issues will be analyzed and in which there will be an exchange of experiences. It is true that we will convey our experience with great pleasure to other countries, to other educators, and to other teachers, especially to the Latin American educators -- many of whom still see the situation that existed in our country and that is even worse in some of those countries than it was in our country. They have more illiteracy and more problems than we have. The problems are not only economic, social, and political; they also have moral problems. They are educators who must see societies corrupted by gambling, prostitution, and drugs. None of these ills affect us today. They are educators who do not see organized children, scientific interest clubs, Pioneer palaces, Pioneer camps, Explorer camps, or any of what we see every day. They do not see the children with opportunities or the scientific and cultural possibilities that we see every day. There are countries that do not have a single Pioneer recreation center. In our country we have many. Some are so large that they house almost 20,000 children at the same time. What can they say? One hundred percent of our children, those between 13 and 16 years of age, are in school, and all of the percentages that we have given here. I am sure that all those who have the souls of educators know that the possibility of doing what we have done is marvelous. It is only possible through a revolution. I have had the opportunity to see how many of these men with great hearts and minds are astonished and amazed not only by the work of the revolution, but also by the smoke screen, the deluge of mud, lies, and slander with which imperialism fearful of the truth and of this example and these successes, tries to prevent the Latin American peoples from opening their eyes.

Our example will be a stimulus for the liberation struggle of other peoples and their desire to one day do what we have done and even better than we have done. This struggle is not only for us, but also for others. We must continue struggling and improving. We are saying that there are many things to be done. No one doubts this. We speak of giving degrees in accordance with the new rules to those who do not have them or of seeking duly-certified degrees. In other words, to give duly-certified degrees to those who do not have them in secondary education. For example, we must continue in the area of special education even though we have an enrollment of 44,500 which is increasing for the next term. It is estimated that approximately 3 percent of the children need special education if we want to give optimum treatment to optimum education. According to this index and the percentage that need it, we only have half of the enrollment that we need in those special schools. In many provinces, the percentage of double sessions is low. A material and organizational struggle must be waged to increase the percentage of double sessions until we reach 100 percent in all cities and the maximum percent in the rural areas. Fortunately, in the city of Havana and in some other areas we have reached 90 percent or more of the double sessions.

We must continue to promote new things because new ideas emerge. One day the vocational schools emerged. They are great, excellent schools. Today their enrollment is approximately 25,000 students. Previously, these schools included secondary and pre-university education. Then, the exact sciences pre-university education emerged and the first pre-university school of exact sciences was created where studnets attended as a result of rigorous competition and where teaching was concentrated on mathematics, physics, chemistry, and biology. After the first school was built, we decided to build another in the center of the country and another in the country's east. Next year we will have three pre-university schools of exact sciences where youths can earn a position based on their merits and the capacity of the school. Those schools are marvelous. The teaching equipment and the computers in the pre-university schools of exact sciences are impressive.

We realized that we have excellent installations at the vocational schools and that above all they trained youths who, due to their experience and merits, were called to later undertake university studies. Using the experience of the pre-university school of exact sciences, we asked ourselves: Why don't we turn all of the vocational schools into university schools and why don't we have students enter from ninth grade rather than sixth grade and not only based on their record but also on a competition equitably distributed among all the municipalities and provinces in the country? As a result of this, for the past year students have entered from sixth grade. Well, the last ones entered this year after the idea emerged in order not to remove expectations or affect hopes based on the previous system. However, in the next two years students will not enter from secondary school. Those in the eighth and ninth grades will continue studying, but those entering will have passed the ninth grade -- in an outstanding manner of course.

Instead of 100,000 pre-university students in the vocational pre-university schools we will have 25,000 students based on their records and competition. Then, we will be able to do almost exactly what we are doing in the pre-university schools of exact sciences: provide them with the necessary equipment so that they will have approximately the same level of education with a greater emphasis on physics, chemistry, mathematics -- which we must not forget, and biology.

We are improving. We are gaining greater benefits and use from all of these institutions on more rational, beneficial basis for our country's development. We also have a weak point that we are overcoming. We do not have enough physics, chemistry, and mathematics professors at the intermediate educational level. We have had to make plans and programs that are already being carried out. There are a few thousand primary schoolteachers who have scholarships with wages and who have been freed from work for 2 years in order to begin studies to become professors of physics, chemistry, mathematics and other sujbects. They are fundamental to fulfilling the shortages. We have shortages we have not filled. Why can we do this? We can do this because we have a small reserve of primary schoolteachers. How do you like this? You can see that it is good to have a reserve. How can 16,000 enter? Here is the answer. Why do we have those primary school teachers studying physics, chemistry, and mathematics? Why can we do this? Because of this reserve. We have a reserve of approximately 12,000 primary schoolteachers. Thanks to this reserve, next year 11,292 primary schoolteachers will be in the higher pedagogic institutes studying full time with wages. Look at this experience. Won't these possibilities be interesting to other countries? All of the professors and primary school teachers who are studying to receive their bachelor's degrees can do so full time at the higher institutes with wages in their last year. [applause] The same number studied full time with wages for 1 year at the preparatory school.

In the future, we will understand better why it is advisable to continue graduating and not close the teachers schools. Perhaps in the future they can be paid for 2 years. That is a variation, a possibility, not a promise. We are coming up with ideas. Perhaps, when everyone has graduated with bachelor's degrees and 100 percent of the intermediate level education teachers have duly-certified degrees, then we will give them the opportunity to study again, to refresh, to improve themselves. If we have a reserve of teachers and professors, every 6 or 7 years we could also give them 1 year full-time with wages. In some select universities this is what is called a sabbatical year. We could give those with bachelor's degrees and professors a sabbatical year so they can refresh themselves and study. [applause] Now do you understand why it is not absurd or foolish to graduate 80,000 future primary schoolteachers and 60,000 professor professors? Do you understand this?

On previous occasions we said: No one will be left without a job. It is taken for granted that if society increases its production and its productivity each year, all of the feminine potential we have will be employed 100 percent and all of the human potential will be yielding high productivity.

Instead of having people doing something that does not render a practical benefit, instead of having an excessive number of people working in offices or somewhere else, it is better to turn them into doctors, teachers, engineers, architects, and so on. Whenever there is a reserve, capitalism lays them off; we think that socialism can employ them at something so useful, important, and decisive by creating the time and opportunity so that after a certain number of years all of the technicians, professionals, doctors, teachers, nurses, and so on who are currently working may have time to refresh, improve themselves, learn more, and become more efficient workers. [applause]

Companeros, we can tell you that we have mediated on these topics and analyzed new ideas that are arising for the first time in the history of our political and revolutionary process. We can also say -- without seeking to praise our revolution since we all have the duty to think, meditate, create, and contribute in this context to the creation of reserves so that we may usefully employ each citizen in the country -- that these new ideas will be highly beneficial. This concept really arose given our need for education. Some think that doctors should also create their reserves. The doctor, regardless of how good he may be, cannot work in a hospital for 25 consecutive years with a period of rest per year pressured by the daily work and service to the people -- and the better the doctor the more he will have -- without the opportunity to complete a year reading books, doing some research in the libraries, gathering more experience, and studying. Anyone can understand that our society would benefit greatly. That is why once we have 20,000 doctors working in the communities as family doctors, plus 30,000 more in the hospitals, and 5,000 more in schools and factories -- under the context that the citizen must receive medical attention wherever he is, at home, in the factory, or at school, we will also need doctors to fulfill our international solidarity duties. We will still need another doctors reserve to do the same for the doctors.

We expect the same to progressively apply to other professions. There is no need to close the university. This possibility is offered to us by the technology, the sciences, and the higher productivity of work, which will permit us to liberate human resources. Socialism cannot conceive an idle man or woman without using such human resources. It would not be socialism, nor would anyone who admits this be truly a socialist. Let us not forget that we are irreconcilable enemies of excessive personnel and of bureaucracy, precisely because we believe in the very best utilization of every human being in work highly beneficial and useful to the entire society.

On a day like today, we can think about things of this nature. We can appeal to the efforts of our teachers, in the knowledge that they are the vanguard of our intellectual workers, to strive even more to raise the equality and efficiency of their work. I am not going to discuss technical matters; we leave that to the higher pedagogical institutes and to the experts in that field. I analyze this problem from the social, political, and revolutionary viewpoint. It is up to our distinguished teachers to determine the best method and the importance of the example. Any revolutionary can vouch for that. Here we spoke of the tremendous importance of the example and of all the factors and circumstances that make the constant improvement of quality and efficiency possible- However, we cannot forget what we have said at other times to the effect that the vast majority of our teachers and professors are young, very young. They have many years ahead of them; they have many services to render.

Their experience will become richer every year. Their wealth of knowledge will become richer. When the average years of experience of our teachers is not 7 or 8 years -- I do not know exactly what the average is but I imagine that their average is not very high -- but when it has reached 10, 15, or 20 years how rich our teaching knowledge and experience will be! You must contribute to that; you must contribute with your revolutionary ideas as much as possible. You must create all possibilities. The teachers and professors will do the best they can because they are more efficient and will be more useful to their country.

They will do the best they can to provide a better education that will benefit all; they will transfer their knowledge and, above all, teach their students to think, create, and learn from the revolution, which has created many things. In this regard, we must make every child, every adolescent, and every youth a revolutionary, not only a political one -- not only a good Marxist-Leninist or a good patriot -- but a great thinker and a great creator. He must be an intelligent, creative individual who will make great miracles -- the miracles that a man can make through his efforts, courage, and tenacity with noble feelings of solidarity.

On a day like today, it is worthwhile and justified to point out the magnificent spirit of our teachers and professors: their revolutionary spirit, their patriotic spirit, their internationalist spirit, and their vanguard spirit within our society. I only want to add my congratulations to this sector of our workers. I only want to voice the highest appreciation of our party, government, revolution, and of our people for the noble and extremely important work that they are carrying out. I want to congratulate the Education Ministry companeros for their great success and to especially congratulate a companero whose merits, capabilities, and tenacity have had much to do with this success: Companero Jose Ramon Fernandez. [prolonged applause]

I congratulate all of you: First, the graduates, and especially those who graduate today for the first time in our country -- the 2,700 bachelors in primary education. [applause] I want to convey to you our deepest gratitude for being the pioneers in this idea. [applause] I remind you that you have a duty to fulfill as pioneers and spokesmen of new, revolutionary ideas. Your work and the devotion to your duties and tasks will be very imortant in determining if one day we will have 10,000, 20,000, 30,000, 50,000, 80,000 and many more dozens of thousands of bachelors in primary education who we may need [applause] to work in our fatherland, and to work in any corner of the world, [applause] wherever it may be necessary to fulfill our sacred internationalist duties and wherever our experience and example may be needed. Free fatherland or death, we will win! [applause]

USSR ENVOY ADDRESSES DELEGATES TO YOUTH FESTIVAL

FL290205 Havana Television Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 29 Jun 85

[Excerpts] An official reception was held today for the Cuban delegation to the 12th International Youth and Student Festival. The event was attended by Konstantin Katushev, USSR ambassador to Cuba, and Carlos Lage, first secretary of the Union of Young Communists, as well as 1,300 delegates invited to Moscow. In his speech, Lage said that half the delegation is composed of female comrades and that 25 percent are internationalists. In addition, Lage praised the selection process among the best youth in the country.

After addressing the Cuban delegates to the 12th international youth festival, Katushev announced a Supreme Soviet resolution awarding to Lage the commemorative medal on the 40th anniversary of the defeat of fascism.

Delegation Departs for Moscow

FL091316 Havana Television Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 9 Jul 85

[Report by Liset Bustamante]

[Excerpts] The 650 delegates who will represent Cuba at the 12th World Youth and Student Festival left Cuba today for the sister socialist Soviet Republic. Moments before departure, they received a warm farewell from our beloved commander in chief as well as from the deputies of the National Assembly of the People's Government.

The Soviet ship (Leonid Savinoff) will arrive in Leningrad 25 July. Thousands of Havana residents said farewell to the 650 youths,the best in studies, defense, and in labor. They will represent our people [words indistinct] with dignity.

JAMAICA

SEAGA LEAVES 12 JULY FOR VISIT TO JAPAN, FRANCE

FL091952 Bridgetown CANA in English 1717 GMT 9 Jul 85

[Text] Kingston, Jamaica, July 9, CANA -- Jamaica Prime Minister Edward Seaga is to pay an official six-day visit to Japan starting Friday, it was announced here. He leaves the island tomorrow for the United States en route to Tokyo for the visit from July 12 to 17 and later will go to France for talks with Western creditors on rescheduling Jamaica's debt. No details were given about the nature of his talks in Tokyo, but it is believed that he will talk about Japanese technical assistance to Jamaica.

The Jamaica Public Service Company has just signed a management contract with the Jamaica Defense Force for a 40-megawatt power barge bought from Japan to boost the output of the company. Japanese firms are involved in the production of Jamaica's famed Blue Mountain coffee, and in the expansion of the cement company.

In France Seaga will seek the assistance of the Paris Club in talks to reschedule a portion of the nation's debt. Jamaica will put in place on August 1 a new agreement with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) for a loan of U.S. 120 million dollars to run until March 31, 1987.

LABOR LEADERS NEGOTIATE SUSPENDED WORKERS ISSUE

FL091433 Bonaire Trans World Radio in English 1130 GMT 9 Jul 85

[Text] Jamaican labor leaders and officials met again yesterday to continue negotiations on behalf of several hundred government workers suspended last week for participating in a general strike.

The union leaders have a mandate to get 1,200 fire fighters and 200 public service company workers back to their jobs as soon as possible.

The suspended workers are being barred from returning to their jobs by Jamaica Defense Force soldiers.

SUGAR FACTORIES REPORT INCREASED OUTPUT

FL092045 Bridgetown CANA in English 1731 GMT 9 Jul 85

[Text] Kingston, Jamaica, July 9, CANA -- Two government-operated sugar factories -- Frome and Long Pond -- recorded significant increases in sugar output during the 1984-85 sugar crop, according to JAMPRESS, the government news agency. JAMPRESS said that 71,000 tons of sugar were produced by both factories which ended their crop in June. Jamaica has projected overall production of 200,000 tons.

Frome, which is located in the western parish of Westmoreland, produced 56,000 tons of sugar this year against 47,000 tons last year. Long Pond, in the northwestern parish of Trelawny Output, stood at 15,000 tons against 1,000 tons during the 1983-84 period.

Frome's managing director, Simon Gibbons, said the 56,000 tons of sugar were produced at the ratio of 10.9 tons of cane to a ton of sugar.

Frome is being managed under a contract with the British sugar company, Tate and Lyle.

Meanwhile, another sugar estate, Hampden, on the border of Trelawny, is continuing its sugar production and has so far produced just over 12,000 tons. The factory has set mid-August to cease operations for this crop and expects by then to produce 15,000 tons.

Hampden's managing director, Winston Kennedy, revealed that 750,000 litres of absolute alcohol have already been produced this year by the factory. Hampden has an exclusive export market to West Germany for absolute alcohol.

TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

CHAMBERS MEETS WITH PRIME MINISTER THATCHER

FL092048 Bridgetown CANA in English 1953 GMT 3 Jul 85

[Text] London, July 8, CANA -- Prime Minister of Trinidad and Tobago George Chambers met British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher today for discussions on international problems including drug trafficking and oil prices, a British spokesman said.

Thatcher and Chambers will meet again in the Bahamas at the conference of Commonwealth heads of government in October.

Chambers, who is on a three-day visit to Britain, met Foreign Office Minister Baroness Young earlier in the day.

Addressess Bankers, Businessmen

FL092100 Bridgetown CANA-REUTER in English 1847 GMT 9 Jul 85

[Text] London, July 9, CANA-REUTER -- Trinidad and Tobago Prime Minister George Chambers said today his country had begun to pull out of an economic recession marked by falling oil prices and dwindling foreign exchange reserves. There are signs that the accumulated efforts of the government's economic policies are beginning to have positive results, Chambers told a meeting of British-based bankers and businessmen.

Chambers was spending three days here in the course of a tour of Africa and the Far East. He lunched with Queen Elizabeth today following talks with Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher and Foreign Office officials yesterday.

Chambers said Trinidad had coped with the effects of the fall in the price of oil -- which accounts for 90 per cent of his Caribbean country's export revenue -- by setting aside reserves during the boom years of the 1970's. Trinidad and Tobago was now eager to attract foreign investment in the economy and had already established its credentials as a prompt repayer of foreign loans. Foreign investors in Trinidad and Tobago had an opportunity to penetrate the U.S. market as a result of favourable terms offered through President Reagan's Caribbean Basin Initiative (CBI), he said.

Chambers noted that Trinidad and Tobago had never been obliged to seek assistance from the International Monetary Fund despite its economic problems. He said inflation had been reduced to 7.5 per cent a year from 16.7 per cent in 1983, but he acknowledged that unemployment was up to 14 per cent from 11.9 per cent in 1982. Trinidad and Tobago has introduced strict monetary measures to cope the the economic situation, he said. The government planned to diversify the economy away from oil. We intend to make greater use of international capital markets, he said. In the past, development projects had been carried out through government funding. The government now hoped to encourage projects jointly funded by foreign and domestic investors, he said.